

APPENDIX 13

MAJOR CASES

PROTOCOL

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CRIME STOPPERS

MAJOR CASES PROTOCOL

Subject

This protocol deals with the submission by local Crime Stoppers programs of major cases to the OACS for dissemination of information to the media.

Preamble

The Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers is committed to a partnership with the public, police and media in providing the community with an opportunity to assist the police anonymously to solve crimes and contribute to an improved quality of life. We strive to serve the community best, by providing information through the media regarding major cases where the offender(s) poses a high risk to the public.

The OACS will review requests from local Crime Stoppers programs regarding major cases, for use of the provincial media networks, on a case by case basis.

References

1. Young offenders Act
2. Police Services Act
3. Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
4. Community Safety Act
5. Identification of Criminals Act

Definitions

1. Young person – means a person under the age of eighteen (18) years as defined in the Young Offenders Act
2. Personal information – refer to information particular to the individual, as defined by section 2 of the Municipal Freedom of information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Police Services Act
3. Major Case – charged (wanted) and unknown suspect

General

1. Release of information – only accurate and factual information is to be released by members, through the media and shall be in accordance with municipal, provincial and federal laws. All news media releases must be submitted in writing, and a copy of the submission retained for reference purposes.
2. When disseminating information to the news media, OACS members shall not release:
 - a. The identity, address or personal information of a young person

- charged with an offence, except as permitted by a youth court judge's order;
- b. Any information prohibited by any act, such as the Young Offenders Act;
 - c. The identity, address and personal information of victims, witnesses and complainants without their expressed written permission, and not at all in cases involving;
 - i. sex offences;
 - ii. child abuse offences;
 - iii. those who are infirm or emotionally disturbed;
 - iv. the identity of any person which may identify the victim when they are charged with an offence involving a child victim, including the particulars of the offence;
 - v. information relating to an accused regarding;
 - a. any tests taken by, refused by, or offered to the accused, and;
 - b. any evidence or information that may prejudice the trial.
3. Information provided to the media about a charged person must comply with the Criminal Code of Canada, and other related provincial statutes.
 4. Cases submitted to the OACS for consideration must have larger geographic or area population interest (multi-jurisdictional or provincial release benefits).
 5. The case should be a major crime or case (such as those defined in the Major Case Management manual).
 6. The submission must be approved by the local Crime Stoppers Board and forwarded to the Chief of Police for their review and approval.
 7. Submit approved information and draft media release to the OACS.

Chief of Police

1. Must approve the submission of the major case to the OACS for provincial (or other geographically defined area) dissemination and agree to pay any costs incurred for the release of the information.
2. The police service must have resources committed to the investigation to be able to respond to tips in a timely manner.
3. Media requests for "posing", interviews or re-creations are the responsibility of the program submitting the case

Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers

1. Review all submissions by local Crime Stoppers programs at the next scheduled OACS meeting. If exigent circumstances exist, the executive may review the program submission.
2. Review the protocol yearly to ensure that it is current and accurate and fits with the OACS mandate

