

NARCOTICS COMPLAINT:

Anatomy of a Drug House Investigation

1. **What is a Drug House?** A drug house is where drugs are being manufactured, sold or used.
2. **Making a complaint.** When the Ashtabula Police Department receives a complaint, the validity of the complaint will be established. Law enforcement takes all complaints seriously. Most drug house complaints are anonymous and the APD strives to protect the identity of all anonymous sources.
3. **Investigation Begins.** The investigation can last days or months, depending upon many factors. The goal of the investigation is to obtain as much evidence as possible to: A) lawfully enter the residence and B) arrest the drug dealers at that residence.
4. **Results.** Unfortunately, not all drug house complaints lead to search warrants and arrests. Law enforcement wants to rid your neighborhood of the problem but to also do so lawfully.

HOW CAN LAW ENFORCEMENT HELP YOU?

THE ASHTABULA POLICE DEPARTMENT IS WORKING HARD TO TRY AND MAKE EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD DRUG AND CRIME FREE, AND WE NEED YOUR HELP. BELOW ARE THE NUMBERS YOU CAN CALL TO REPORT DRUG HOUSE COMPLAINTS OR QUALITY OF LIFE COMPLAINTS.

FOR EMERGENCIES:

Dial 911

ANONYMOUS TIP LINE:

(440) 992-7126

TO REPORT DRUG AND/OR PROSTITUTION ACTIVITY:

Detective Bureau: (440) 992-7173
(This line is not always answered, but please leave a message with your information.)

TO REPORT OTHER CRIMES OR CRIMES IN PROGRESS:

(440) 992-7172

TO REPORT HOUSING CODE VIOLATIONS OR PROPERTY ISSUES:

Planning & Community Development: (440) 992-7118

IS THAT A DRUG HOUSE?

A resource guide to spotting, documenting and reporting criminal activity in your neighborhood.



Ashtabula Police Department
110 W. 44th Street
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

If we are going to stop crime and drugs from taking over our neighborhoods we must all work together as a team. Without your help and assistance, local law enforcement officers face many restrictions. Your involvement is the key to stopping crime.



IS THAT A DRUG HOUSE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Drug houses don't just happen in other neighborhoods. Drug Houses can occur in any neighborhood. There are four things that make a drug house:

- Product
- Buyer
- Dealer
- Location

Most neighborhoods have very little control over Product, Buyer or Dealer. Drug dealers look for locations where neighbors do not communicate and isolate themselves.

Drug Dealers like neighborhoods that say, "It can't happen here". If they establish a drug house in a neighborhood where the neighbors don't care, business will thrive.

Prevention is the best way to stop drug houses!

How can you reduce the chance that a drug house moves into your neighborhood:

- Start a Neighborhood Watch
- Get to know your Neighbors
- Meet and know the Police in your area. As problems develop, work with law enforcement to resolve the problem.

HOW CAN YOU HELP LAW ENFORCEMENT?

OBTAIN AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE DRUG HOUSE AND THE ACTIVITIES:

- Maintain a log of the activity at the drug house
- Provide address and house description to police
- Provide description (names if known) of persons at drug house
- Provide vehicle descriptions and license plate information
- Provide busiest drug activity times and days of the week when activity is the worst
- Provide any additional needed information: children, guns, vicious dogs, security cameras.



ACTIVITIES THAT MAY INDICATE A DRUG HOUSE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD:

alone, any of these activities or signs may not mean that drug dealing is occurring. however, some or several of them happening together may indicate a problem.

1. **Frequent visitors** at all hours day and night who aren't residents.
2. **Numerous visitors** staying for very brief periods of time.
3. **Visitors** bring valuables into the residence and leave empty handed.
4. **Visitors waiting** in the car or the resident coming out to visitors at their car.
5. **Lookouts outside** the residence watching for police.
6. **Exchanges** between the resident and visitors that appear to be drugs and money.
7. **Shades or blinds** always closed.
8. **Video cameras** on the exterior of the residence.