



## FAQ on MyPD Tip Reporting

### For Jackson Township Parents and Students



#### **What is the sticker located in my child's locker?**

A *Making Right Turns* or *Not 1 More* sticker has been provided to us by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and placed in each student's locker. The sticker provides a scannable QR code that links a mobile device such as a cell phone directly to the MyPD App. MyPD enables someone to anonymously report suspicious activity or suspected incidents of drug use or possession, violence or other crimes.

#### **What are some examples of tips or suspicious activity that should be reported on this link?**

Any crime can be reported including drug use or abuse, child neglect or abuse, or any threat of a violent crime. All incidents that require immediate police assistance should be reported using 911.

#### **Why and when should a student report anonymous?**

All students want to go to school where and when they feel safe. While officials always prefer that a student report information to a trusted adult, either at home or in school, sometimes students become aware of an incident or hear about something concerning and upsetting and they want to speak up and let adults know what is going on – but they don't want to draw attention to themselves.

There are many reasons that a student may want to report anonymously. Students can be nervous that their involvement will end up backfiring on them. They might not know who specifically to go to. No one wants to be targeted for speaking up. For those reasons alone, students appreciate when anonymous reporting mechanisms are implemented and provided for them. These systems greatly benefit law and school officials who need to know what is going on outside of their immediate purview.

#### **How can I be sure that my tip is anonymous?**

Including your name and contact information is optional and to ensure that you remain anonymous, you can check the box – Anonymous.

#### **When is the 'anonymous tip' not anonymous?**

You must click the anonymous box to report anonymously. Doing so will ensure that your tip will be treated as an anonymous tip. Officials are less interested in who you are and more interested in getting good information that can help others and the community.

#### **When can a student use their phone to report?**

Students should continue to comply with all school rules regarding cell phones. In our district, students are not permitted to use their cell phones during school hours (unless it is part of a supervised classroom activity). They may, however, use them to download the app so they can use it at a later time, after the school day.

**How often are the tips monitored?**

The tip line will be monitored routinely but is not to be used in place of 911. 911 should still be used for all emergencies requiring immediate police or emergency response.

**What will be the response time?**

MyPD is best used to report crime tips anonymously. Although there is routine monitoring of the incoming information, everyone is encouraged to call 911 or the local police department to report an incident that requires immediate assistance.

**What tips will be investigated by the school and when will tips be investigated by the local police department or prosecutor's office.**

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office will work closely with the Jackson Township Police Department as well as communicate with school officials. Each tip will be carefully reviewed and handled by the appropriate agency or official.

**Can a student be prosecuted for filing a false, malicious report?**

Yes, if someone knowingly and intentionally reports a false and malicious report, that person may be prosecuted. School officials may also take appropriate action.

**As a student's phone is owned and managed by parents, what legal responsibility do parents have for their children making a fictitious report.**

Parents are always encouraged to monitor their child's online and cellphone activity. In that way, parents always remain responsible for their child's activity online or offline.

**I know that the Jackson Township Police Department also has an anonymous crime tip line. What is the difference between this and the MyPD app?**

The MyPD app that directly links to the Prosecutor's Office and is an on-line tool. The police tip line is a telephone number that can be called. Residents are encouraged to use either method to report information they feel would be valuable to law enforcement.

**What is the purpose of the security code on the link?**

The security code is simply used to prevent the program integrity.

**I still have questions. Who should I contact?**

If you still have questions about the MyPD app stickers, you can contact the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office at 732-929-2027 or any high school or middle school administrator.