



What should I look for in my neighbourhood?

## SCAN

**H**ere are some possible signs of illegal activities covered by **SCAN**. Any one of these activities or signs may not mean that there are illegal activities on a property, but if they happen often, or in combination, there may be a problem.

- Numerous visitors arrive often and at all times of the day and night.
- There is often activity late at night.
- Windows are blackened or curtains are always drawn.
- People are unfriendly and appear to be secretive about their activities.
- People watch cars suspiciously as they pass by.
- Home security is extensive and expensive.
- Strange odours come from the house or garbage.
- The garbage contains many bottles and containers, particularly chemical containers.
- Garbage is put out in another neighbour's collection area.

If you are suspicious of a property in your neighbourhood, do not investigate it yourself or approach the occupants. Please call the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Investigation Section immediately at **1-877-35-SAFER (72337)**.

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**You can help fight crime.**



## If you want to report a problem property

or have any questions about this Act, please contact the **Public Safety Investigation Section.**

Call toll free at:  
**1-877-35-SAFER**  
**1-877-357-2337**

For more information about public safety and the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, go to [www.gov.ns.ca/just](http://www.gov.ns.ca/just)

**You can help fight crime.**

It's  
**your**  
neighbourhood  
**Your**  
**call**

**1-877-35-SAFER**



Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act  
**SCAN**



**A**re you worried about illegal drugs, alcohol, prostitution, or gaming in your building or on your street? The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act (**SCAN**) gives you a way to report your concerns and take back your neighbourhood.

With **SCAN**, property owners are held accountable for threatening or disturbing activities that regularly take place on their property. They may also be required to remove barriers or fortifications, such as bullet-proof glass, explosive-resistant materials, barbed wire, armour, or bars on windows or doors. Fortifications like these are illegal if they could prevent emergency response personnel, police, or occupants from entering or escaping a property in an emergency.

**SCAN** gives citizens the power to report their concerns about safety, and gives authorities the power to investigate and take action. The investigations are carried out by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice's Public Safety Investigation Section.

## It's your neighbourhood Your call

### Q. How does the complaint process work?

The process starts when someone files a confidential complaint with the Director of Public Safety. If there is enough evidence to support the complaint, an investigation is launched.

### Q. Who investigates complaints?

The Public Safety Investigation Section investigates and responds to complaints throughout Nova Scotia.

### Q. What kinds of property can be investigated?

"Property" includes a structure, business, house, apartment, apartment unit, suite, mobile home, or land with or without a building on it.

### Q. How do I make a complaint?

If you think something illegal is happening on a property in your neighbourhood, do not investigate it yourself or approach the occupants. Please call the Public Safety Investigation Section immediately at **1-877-35-SAFER (72337)**.

### Q. Are complaints confidential?

**Yes**, your identity is entirely confidential.

You will **not** be identified or required to testify in any court proceedings that may result from your complaint.

### Q. What happens after an investigation?

If there is illegal activity, the property owner and/or tenants may receive a notice to vacate the property. If they do not co-operate, the Director may make application to the Supreme Court for a Community Safety Order. The Community Safety Order is not designed to punish offenders; it aims to improve public safety in our communities.

### Q. What happens if a Community Safety Order is issued for a property?

A copy of the order is posted on the property and a copy is served on the owner and/or tenants. A Community Safety Order directs all those involved to stop the illegal activity. The order may also direct that the property be vacated and secured by the Director for a period of up to 90 days.

### Q. What happens to occupants living in a property that is shut down?

**All** occupants of a property or unit that is closed by a Community Safety Order must leave the property. If an occupant does not leave, the Director can get help from a police officer to remove them from the property. After leaving the property, and while the property is closed, no occupant can enter or occupy the property without the Director's consent.

