

CARLA L. SIKES

Municipal Judge
(719) 562-3810

LISA COUGHLIN

Court Administrator
(719) 562-3850



**Municipal Court
200 South Main Street
Pueblo, CO 81003
Phone: (719) 562-3810
Fax: (719) 562-3811**

**Business Hours Monday thru
Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm
Excluding legal holidays**

DISCLAIMER

This non-comprehensive general information pamphlet regarding the City of Pueblo Municipal Court is not intended to provide legal advice of any kind.

While the majority of individuals charged with municipal ordinance violations represent themselves in Court, if you are charged with violating a municipal ordinance, you are encouraged to seek the legal advice of an attorney.



**Making
Customer Service
Our #1 Priority**

<http://www.pueblo.us/court>

The City Council of the City of Pueblo has determined that graffiti is a public nuisance and destructive of the rights and values of property owners, as well as the entire community. Graffiti promotes blight in the neighborhoods in which it occurs and encourages similar acts of vandalism. Unless the City acts to remove graffiti from public and private property, the graffiti tends to remain. Without prompt and immediate removal of graffiti, other properties become the target of graffiti, and entire neighborhoods are affected and become less desirable places in which to be, all to the detriment of the City and its citizens.

Graffiti. Graffiti means any unauthorized inscription, word, figure, painting, or other marking that is written, etched, scratched, sprayed, drawn, painted, or engraved on or otherwise affixed to any surface of public or private property by any graffiti implement.

Graffiti Implement. Graffiti implement means an aerosol paint container, broad-tipped marker, gum label, paint stick or graffiti stick, etching equipment, brush, or any other device capable of scarring or leaving a visible mark on any surface.

Unlawful Acts. It is unlawful for any person to apply graffiti to any surface, and it is unlawful for any minor to buy or carry on his or her person any graffiti implement.

It is unlawful for any person to sell, exchange, give, loan, or otherwise furnish, or cause or permit to be exchanged, given, loaned, or otherwise furnished, any aerosol paint container, broad-tipped marker, or paint stick to any minor.

It is unlawful for the owner or responsible party of property upon which graffiti exists or has been applied in the City to permit

such graffiti to remain for a period of more than ten (10) days. Such Penalty is a **MANDATORY COURT APPEARANCE** before the Judge and up to a \$1,000 fine or one year in jail or both.

Penalties. Any violation of the graffiti ordinances carries, in addition to any sentence of jail time, a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the first offense, two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the second offense, and three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the third or any subsequent offense.

In addition, the Court shall order any violator to make restitution to the victim for damages or loss caused by the violator's offense in the amount or manner determined by the Court. In addition, the parents of a minor are responsible for making restitution.

Any punishment imposed for any violation of the graffiti ordinances may include the minor and/or the parent of a minor performing community service.

What should I do if I am the victim of graffiti? If graffiti appears on your property, it is important to remove it as soon as possible. It is true that graffiti may reappear, but if you remove it again within 24 hours, taggers will likely become discouraged and move on to a property where the owner does not act.

Tips for Preventing Graffiti:

Minimizing graffiti on your property begins with keeping the property clean and well maintained. Fencing, increased lighting, and motion sensor lighting all contribute to reducing crime, including graffiti, in your neighbourhood. On vulnerable walls, use

clinging vegetation, such as ivy, to eliminate large writing surfaces. If your property has been tagged with graffiti, rapid removal, notably within 24 to 48 hours, will reduce the chances of being tagged again. If your building has a sensitive surface, such as brick or stucco, consider applying a protective anti-graffiti coating. This is especially advantageous if your property is repeatedly targeted with graffiti. Have a neighborhood meeting to discuss solutions. Form a neighborhood watch program. Adopt a street, park, school, church, or business that is a target for graffiti. Involve young people in the cleanup.

If you need assistance with removing graffiti and are unable to remove graffiti yourself, please call the Graffiti Hotline at:

(719) 553-2501

If you see graffiti being applied, call 911 and report it immediately.



City of Pueblo

Graffiti Removal Program

If you notice graffiti within the City of Pueblo, please contact the Graffiti Removal Hotline!

**GRAFFITI HOTLINE
(719) 553-2501**