

Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Unit

Is there a house on your block or in your neighbourhood where there may be illegal activities related to prostitution, gangs, or drugs?

Take action to improve the safety of your neighbourhood by calling SCAN. SCAN is a unit within the Sheriff's Branch of Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security that investigates problem properties.

SCAN targets residential and commercial buildings used for illegal activities, and can shut them down if needed.

SCAN also holds property owners accountable for illegal activities that regularly take place on their property.



What should I look for in my neighbourhood?

Following is a list of common signs of suspicious or illegal activity. Alone, they do not always mean illegal activities are taking place. However, if these events occur frequently, or if they occur together, there may be a problem.

Look for:

- ▶ Frequent visitors at all times of the day and night
- ▶ Frequent late night activity
- ▶ Windows blackened or curtains always drawn
- ▶ Visitors with expensive vehicles
- ▶ Unfriendly people who appear to be secretive about their activities
- ▶ People watching cars suspiciously as they pass by
- ▶ Extensive investment in home security
- ▶ Strange odours coming from the house or garbage
- ▶ Garbage that contains numerous bottles and containers, particularly chemical containers
- ▶ Neglected property and yard

If you are suspicious of a property in your neighbourhood, **do not investigate it yourself or approach the occupants.**

Contact your local police service or contact SCAN.

Toll-free: **1-866-960-SCAN**
(1-866-960-7226)

Online:
www.scan.alberta.ca

Magnet to go here

To report a problem property in your neighbourhood contact (SCAN) toll free at:

1-866-960-SCAN
(1-866-960-7226)

You can also file a complaint online at:

www.scan.alberta.ca

For more information about SCAN, call our toll free number or visit us online.



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Alberta

Take action to build a safer neighbourhood

Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Act



Alberta

Question and Answer section:

What does SCAN do?

In response to a public complaint, SCAN investigates a property that appears to be used for illegal activities, and can close it down. SCAN investigators can also obtain court orders to make property owners take responsibility for the activities occurring on their property.

How does SCAN operate?

When a concerned resident makes a complaint to SCAN, the unit will begin an investigation.

Investigators will meet with a property owner to try and solve the problem, or send a warning letter to the property owner, or the person who lives at the property.

If necessary, SCAN will apply to the courts for a Community Safety Order that requires owners to clean up / repair the property, or for the property to be closed for up to 90 days.

Any criminal activity uncovered when dealing with these properties will be turned over to the police to investigate.

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

A copy of the order is posted on the property and served on the owner.

The order will require the owner to take steps to stop the problem. It also prevents tenants from continuing any illegal activities. It may order some or all of the tenants to leave if they have been involved in those activities.

What happens to occupants living in a property being investigated by SCAN?

SCAN's goal is to improve community safety.

Tenants are only removed from a residence as a last resort, and if there is no cooperation from the tenant or the owner.

If a Community Safety Order is obtained, all occupants of a property must leave immediately. No one can re-enter the property without the consent of the SCAN unit or the court.

What happens to tenants who are not involved in illegal activities?

Tenants who must leave the property as a result of a Community Safety Order, but who have not been involved in any illegal activities, can apply to the court to allow them to return to the property.

This application must be made within 14 days of being served with an order.

How do I file a complaint?

Call SCAN toll-free at 1-866-960-SCAN (7226). You can also file a complaint online at www.scan.alberta.ca.

If there is enough evidence to support the complaint, SCAN will investigate.

All complaints are held in strict confidence. The name of anyone who files a complaint will not be revealed at any time.

What is meant by "property"?

"Property" could include a structure, business, house, apartment, suite, mobile home, or land with or without a structure or dwelling on it.



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