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## **Tips to Handle Telephone Harassment**

Unfortunately, whether using a home phone or cell phone, anyone can be the victim of harassing, annoying, obscene, or threatening telephone calls. La Porte Police remind citizens that most harassing phone calls can be prevented or avoided by learning to use some simple techniques to decrease your potential for becoming a victim.

- Use your telephone on your own terms. If the caller doesn't speak, or if you simply don't feel comfortable talking to the caller, hang up.
- Ask for the caller's identity.
- Don't give out any information to anyone you don't positively recognize or who does not easily give their name.
- If the caller asks for a roommate or family member, don't say where they are, instead offer to take a message.
- Don't give out the names of others living with you.
- Even if you have a caller ID feature, teach children to ask for a caller's name and number so someone may return the call later.
- Remind children not to engage in conversations with strangers.
- If a caller persists after you or your children have made it clear you do not wish to talk, the simplest response is to hang up.

Utilizing these simple tips should help. However, if you continue to experience continual episodes of telephone harassment, write down the time and date of each call, try to get recordings of the calls, and notify the police department of the harassment as soon as possible by calling 281-471-2141.