



Chula Vista Frequently Asked Questions on Homeless for Businesses

1. Are the homeless allowed to loiter outside our businesses?

We understand that having multiple subjects loitering at and around the entrance of your business can impede normal business traffic and can negatively affect the ability of your business to operate successfully. Laws and codes related to loitering can be enforced on the business property if "No Loitering" signs are posted.

2. What can be done about chronic inebriates hanging around my business?

The laws that govern public intoxication are very specific. It is illegal to drink alcohol in public. This is something that can be handled directly through the Police Department, by calling the non-emergency number at (619) 691-5151. However, this issue can also be handled through a partnership with local businesses. If these businesses are willing to refuse to serve people who are already visibly intoxicated, this sort of behavior can be sharply curtailed.

3. Is it illegal for anyone to have shopping carts from stores?

While it is theoretically illegal, due to case law regarding property belonging to homeless persons it is not logistically possible to prosecute for this offense.

4. Is panhandling illegal?

No it is not. Panhandling is legal as long as it is done from a location where the subject has a legal right to be and is not done within 500 feet of a freeway access ramp. However, if a person is panhandling on business property in a manner that interferes with successful business operation, that behavior is illegal.

5. What can be done about transients sleeping behind businesses?

As long as the business is posted for loitering and trespassing, subjects can be made to move and also be cited. For more detailed information please see the [trespass information site](#).

6. Is the homeless problem getting worse in the City of Chula Vista?

Homelessness is a nationwide problem and is on the rise in southern California. San Diego County has the second highest homeless population in the state. The City of Chula Vista has taken a proactive approach to addressing the homeless population in our community. We continue to try to come up with creative solutions in reducing the number of homeless in our community by connecting them to resources and services addressing the root cause of their homelessness.

7. Is drinking on a business property illegal?

Yes, any open alcohol containers in public are illegal, and that can be handled by calling the non-emergency police number at (619) 691-5151.

8. What can I do about the homeless urinating on or around the building?

Urinating in public is illegal and should be addressed by calling the non-emergency police number at (619) 691-5151.



Chula Vista Police Department

Non-Emergency Number (619) 691-5151
315 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista CA 91910

[Solving Trespassing Problems - Chula Vista Police Department Website](#)

Community Relations Unit - Chula Vista Police Department

Angela Gaines (619) 691-5187; againes@chulavistapd.org
315 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista CA 91910

Chula Vista Code Enforcement Division (for homeless camps on public land)

(619) 691-5280
276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista CA 91910

Chula Vista Animal Care Facility (for issues related to homeless persons' pets)

(619) 691-5123
130 Beyer Way, Chula Vista CA 91910

[City of Chula Vista Municipal Code](#)

National City Police Department

Non-Emergency Number (619) 336-4411
1200 National City Boulevard, National City CA 91950

San Diego Police Department - Southern Division

Non-Emergency Number (619) 424-0400
1120 27th Street, San Diego CA 92154

Chula Vista Homeless Frequently Asked Questions for Residents

1. What can I do about the homeless camps in the open field areas near my house?

It depends on whether the camps are on private property or publicly-owned land. If the camps are on public lands, camping in parks and open fields is prohibited within the city limits. If this is the case you can call Code Enforcement at (619) 691-5280 or contact the Police Department on the non-emergency line (619) 691-5151. If the land is private property, it is up to the owner of the property to address the issue through trespassing laws. All of the information regarding trespassing laws can be accessed through the trespass information site.

2. Is panhandling legal?

Yes, panhandling is legal as long as it is done in a location where the subject has a legal right to be, and is not done within 500 feet of a freeway access ramp.

3. Is it legal for people to have shopping carts away from the stores. Isn't that stolen property?

While it is theoretically illegal, due to case law regarding property belonging to homeless persons it is not logistically possible to prosecute for this offense.

4. Are there resources for the homeless in the City of Chula Vista?

There are numerous resources available for the homeless in terms of general support and also for the purpose of helping them off the street. These resources can be accessed [here](#).

5. What's being done?

The City of Chula Vista and the Police Department recognize the nature and existence of homeless-related public safety issues and have created the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) to address these issues in a manner that balances the needs of residents, businesses, and the homeless.

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7. Are the homeless dangerous?

It would be unfair to characterize an entire group of people as either dangerous or safe. That being said, there are certain concrete factors, such as drug use, that sometimes lead to persons becoming homeless. Homeless persons should be treated with the same amount of dignity and respect as anyone else; however, it is also a good idea to keep a safe distance if you are concerned by a homeless person's behavior. If you have a concern about a homeless person, feel free to contact the Police Department on the non-emergency line at (619) 691-5151.



8. Is it illegal for anyone to take recycling items out of my bins that I have placed on the curb for pickup?

Yes, this is illegal. If you witness this occurring do not confront the subject. Call the Police Department's non-emergency line at (619) 691-5151.

9. The homeless have taken over the parks and it is difficult for my family to spend time at the parks. What can we do?

The homeless fall under the same rules and guidelines as anyone else in our local parks. Drinking alcohol, urinating in public, and overnight camping are all prohibited. However, there is no law against homeless persons spending large portions of the day in the park, or taking up any number of tables, or other park resources.

10. I see homeless people drinking in public, is that illegal?

Yes, drinking in public is illegal and covered by municipal code 9.15.010. If you witness this occurring do not confront the subject. Call the Police Department's non-emergency line at (619) 691-5151.

11. What about drinking alcohol in parks?

Alcohol consumption is not permitted in any city park that has signs that prohibit alcohol consumption. In parks that are not posted with these signs, alcohol consumption is not permitted between 8:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. from April to October, and between 7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. from November to March

Homeless Resources

The City of Chula Vista strives to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness by providing the most useful and direct resources for information and services. For those needing shelter, food or meals, clothing, or other types of assistance, contact [211 San Diego](#). 211 San Diego operators access a centralized database of agencies, shelters, and services for people who are homeless or have other community needs. Their services are available by phone throughout the City and County of San Diego.

Fair Housing and Tenant/Landlord

CSA provides [tenant/landlord and fair housing](#) services in the City of Chula Vista.

Housing Counseling Services

[Housing Opportunities Collaborative](#) - The HOC educates the public about homeownership and landlord-tenant rights and responsibilities, provides financial and other counseling and informational resources. They also provide foreclosure prevention counseling through HOME Clinics.

[Community HousingWorks](#) - Offers foreclosure prevention and pre- and post-purchase counseling services. Call (619) 282-6647.

Legal Services

[California Tenants: A Guide to Residential Tenants' and Landlords' Rights and Responsibilities.](#) California Department of Consumer Affairs. 2012



[Tenants Legal Center](#) at (858) 571-7100

[CSA San Diego County](#) at (800) 954-0441 English/Spanish
Landlord-Tenant Conciliation and Dispute Services

[National Conflict Resolution Center](#) at 619-428-3200

[Legal Aid Society of San Diego](#) at 1-877-534-2524 English/Spanish
110 South Euclid, San Diego, CA 92114
Provides legal assistance regarding eviction, housing, and landlord/tenant issues, in addition to other areas of law, to those who qualify. No fees.

[Lawyer Referral & Info Service of the San Diego Bar Assoc.](#) at (619) 231-0781
Referrals to qualified legal counsel for a free 30 minute consultation.

[San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program](#) at (619) 235-5656 | E: info@sdvlp.org
707 Broadway, Suite 1400, San Diego CA 92101-5499
Provides free legal services to indigent clients in areas of civil law.

[University of San Diego](#) – Legal Clinic at (619) 260-7470
5998 Alcalá Park, Barcelona Hall, Room 305 San Diego 92110
[Provides legal services to low-income San Diego County residents.](#)