

Is that a Criminal House?

What does a criminal house look like?

First off, I call them criminal houses instead of “Drug House” or something else because these types of houses are often involved in many types of crimes that includes; drugs, theft, vehicle prowls, bike thefts, burglaries, trespassing, prostitution, trafficking in stolen goods, etc...

These types of residences have a very negative impact on the neighborhood. You’ll often notice an increase in local mail theft, vehicle prowls, needles and other drug paraphernalia in nearby parks. Besides the threats to our residents that these type of persons create it also poses an environmental and safety threat from dangerous chemicals, discarded needles and a build up of undisposed trash that attracts rodents and leaches into our local streams.

I’ll explain what police note when trying to build evidence of a criminal house. Remember that we aren’t looking for just one of the items that I list, we are looking for multiple items, and multiple items that do not have a valid explanation for their presence. This ‘totality of the circumstances’ is what helps us build our cases against those involved in these criminal activities.

Here is the list;

- Uncut grass
- Poor house maintenance
- Unusual smells, usually chemical
- Junk Vehicles
- No trash service, build up of trash or debris
- Blacked out windows or excessively reinforced
- Short stay foot, bicycle or vehicle traffic
- Home occupants come out to meet visitors on street or in driveway for a short time
- Exchange of packages, backpacks, or hand to hand exchanges between home occupants and short stay traffic
- Visits by known criminals
- Vehicle traffic that picks up house occupant for short drive then returns house occupant
- Law enforcement contacts with residence
- Arguments and fights inside and outside of residents
- Multiple long use of extension cords to unknown locations outside and inside of house
- People living out of vehicles on property
- RV’s on property that appear to be used as residences or work areas
- Excessive bikes for occupants, different bikes showing up
- Individuals attempting to hide their identity as they come and go