



From the Block Watch Society of British Columbia

Module 6 – Decommissioning a Block Watch Crime Prevention Group

Follow these guidelines when first contacted to decommission a Block Watch Crime Prevention Group:

When there comes a time that a Crime Prevention Group under the Block Watch Program fails to have a Captain or just does not want to participate any further, as a Coordinator you are then obligated to decommission that group.

Please allow the Group every opportunity to find a replacement Captain/Co-Captain. The file for each group will have a copy of all residents in that Group and they should be notified that this is the case and allowed time to find a replacement Captain. If warranted you can send a second email as a final request with the statement that their signage will be removed if a representative does not come forth. Each Coordinator will have their own way to notify the Group, just as long as it's been given the opportunity to re-establish itself we are good with that. Six months is not uncommon but we will leave the time period up to the individual Coordinators.

When decommissioning, we ask the decommissioning Captain to tell their group to inform their insurers if they are claiming a Block Watch discount as they no longer would qualify. The notification can advise that the group has been marked as decommissioned but can be reactivated within six months without reapplying.

When the decision to decommission the Crime Prevention Group is made, the signage issued to that Group **MUST** be removed and the file noted as "Decommissioned". All personal information in the file must be shredded and you can leave the file cover page in it just in case it ever gets started again. This Block Watch number then can be re-issued to another new group.

For fairness to established and active Crime Prevention Groups and to add credibility of the value of the signs, the Block Watch Society requires that decommissioned Block Watch group signs be removed within 6 months of decommissioning.

To be a Crime Prevention Group under the Block watch Program is an earned privilege. Should a Group opt-out then they forfeit that privilege and all that goes with it. This includes the signage. The Block Watch Society has created real value that goes with each Group formed and this cannot be watered down with the use of Block Watch signs left, after decommission, to create a false image of crime prevention, and Groups may have the false sense that they are still in the Block Watch program and therefore won't be inclined to officially start a new group and register with their local police agency.