



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BURGLARY VICTIMS



As a victim of burglary, you may have suffered some level of property loss and damage. Your daily routine may have been interrupted and made more difficult as a result of the crime. If the burglary was in your home, you may also suffer emotional trauma resulting in difficult and confusing feelings.

Victim Assistance Section can provide financial assistance for some off the crime-related expenses. They can also refer you to local resources for counseling and support. Your sheriff or police can help you take steps to prevent burglary and help put your mind at ease.

## What Else Can I Do?

Many people feel safer after making their homes more physically secure with new or better locks, cameras, or even an alarm system.

Some work out strategies with their neighbors to watch one another's properties. Any preventative measures you do to help make your home more secure will help you regain a sense of control.

## Contact your police or County Sheriff's Office

Law enforcement agencies can help you take action and give you burglary prevention tips. Law enforcement can help you with assessing the effectiveness of your security system, locks, and windows.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Iowa Attorney General's Office  
Victim Assistance Section  
Lucas State Office Building, Ground Floor  
321 east 12th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.5044 or 1.800.373.5044

<http://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov>  
Click on "For Crime Victims"



## IOWA ATTORNEY GENERAL

## VICTIM ASSISTANCE SECTION

# BURGLARY VICTIMS



# PROPERTY DAMAGE AND LOSS

With a few exceptions, the Crime Victim Compensation Program cannot pay you for property loss or damage.

After you report the burglary to Law Enforcement, contact your homeowner insurance agent to determine what is covered by your policy. If you are a renter, contact your landlord and rental insurance agent.

If the offender is convicted, you can ask the prosecutor for a form describing your financial losses. The prosecutor can then request an order that restitution for the loss be paid to you part as part of the offender's sentence.

Eligibility requires the crime to be reported to law enforcement within 72 hours and an application to the program be made within 2 years of the crime. The application can be filed even if there is no arrest or conviction.

Contact our program to see if you are eligible.

## TO APPLY

**CONTACT OUR OFFICE:  
AT 515.281.5044 OR 1.800.373.5044**



## WHAT IS BURGLARY?

According to Iowa Code 713.1, any person, having the intent to commit a felony, assault or theft therein, who, having no right, license or privilege to do so, enters an occupied structure, such occupied structure not being open to the public, or who remains therein after it is closed to the public or after the person's right, license or privilege to be there has expired, or any person having such intent who breaks an occupied structure, commits burglary.

## FEELINGS OFTEN EXPERIENCED BY BURGLARY VICTIMS

Burglary may be experienced as a violation of ones home, trust, and safety. Some people benefit from counseling to deal with the trauma of a burglary. Feelings often felt after a burglary:

- Sense of Violation
- Anger and Frustration
- Increased Fears
- Loss of Control
- Sense of Guilt, and "Why Me?"
- Loss of Trust in other people
- Am I going Crazy?

As you experience difficult feelings, you may wonder why the feelings are lasting so long, or why these seem to be getting worse. You may never have known anyone else who experienced these things or thought it could happen to you. Just know you are having a normal reaction to an abnormal traumatizing experience.



## WILL THESE FEELINGS EVER GO AWAY?

All of these feelings and reactions are natural responses to the trauma of victimization. Your experience will vary from others, but many victims share these common responses

The intensity of feeling and reactions likely will start to lighten after the initial three to six weeks. you will feel better after time has passed, but you probably will never forget the burglary.

You can help your recovery by talking about your feelings and thoughts with a good listener or counselor. Avoiding your feelings can only delay your recovery from the crime.

## GET HELP!!

The Crime Victim Compensation Program reimburses eligible crime victims for certain out of pocket expenses due to injury from the crime.

Victims of burglary often apply for crime-related expenses such as:

- Counseling or Medical Services
- Loss wages due to emotional injury
- Replace security items like locks & windows.