



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

POILEAS ALBA



Robbery Prevention Advice

English Translation



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Robbery Prevention Advice

Robbery may be defined as the felonious appropriation of property by means of violence or threats of violence. A robbery is a crime against your person rather than against your property. If someone breaks into your home or business and takes property from the premises, the crime is called a housebreaking. However, if you are confronted by an individual or group on the street or in your home, car or business and force is used or threatened against you, you have become the victim of a robbery.

Two Important Reminders To Consider:

Robbers want one thing – your money or property – and they want it quickly.

Robbery is a risky business and robbers are usually nervous. You do not want to delay a robbery in any way and increase the potential for violence. Give the robber what they want and do it quickly. Do not risk your life, or another person's life, for property.

General Advice

- **Trust Your Instincts** | If you sense trouble, avoid the person(s) and get away as soon as possible.
- **Show Confidence** | Robbers want someone who will provide the least resistance. If you look like you know where you are going, walk with your head up and eyes alert, you will most likely be left alone.
- **Be observant** | Observe the people around you. Know who is walking behind and in front of you. Things to watch for include suspicious persons or vehicles, people who are wearing inappropriate clothing for the weather (e.g. a long or heavy coat in warm weather), and people just loitering around.
- **Walk In Well-lit Areas** | Stick to well lighted streets and well-populated areas – Avoid shortcuts, wooded areas, alleys, and isolated parking lots.
- **Be aware of your surroundings** | If you think you are being followed, go to a crowded area.
- **Reduce Valuables That You Carry** | Minimise the amount of cash or valuables that you have on your person at all times.
- **Don't Become Distracted** | Do not wear headphones or look at your mobile devices whilst walking.
- **Be Alert** | Stay extra cautious in transitional spaces – (e.g., walking from your car to your house). Always have your keys in-hand before you reach the door.

- **Plan and Share Your Travel Plans of Getting Home** | Inform friends and family your route of heading home, how you are planning on getting home (i.e public transport, walking, cycling) and an approx. time of arriving home, consider having family members meet you outside when arriving home.
- **Safety In Numbers** | Walk with friends or in a group.
- **Car Safety** | Park in well-lit areas and be sure to lock your car, close your windows and hide all gifts and shopping bags so that they cannot be seen from a passer-by.

If you observe suspicious persons, vehicles or activities, call the police.

During a Robbery

Your main aim during a robbery is to get the person away from yourself as soon as possible, survive the robbery without injury. Although it will be a traumatic experience, please remember and follow (where possible) the advice below:

- **Remain Calm** and cooperate with the robber(s).
- **Watch The Robber's Hands** | If they are not wearing gloves, anything they touch might leave fingerprints.
- **Prioritise Personal Safety** | Make personal safety the number one priority. Money and property can be replaced.
- **Observe Any Weapons** | Notice the type and description of any weapons used – Glance at the weapon if you can.
- **Carefully Observe the Physical Characteristics** of the robber. Be a good witness. Note as much detail about the suspect(s) as possible. (Age, race, height, facial hair, speech, clothing etc.) When it is safe, notify the police immediately by calling 999.

After a Robbery

- **Police Arrival** | Police will ask for the location of the robbery, whether anyone is injured, the exact time the robber(s) left and their direction of travel, the kind of weapon used, description of the vehicle, the robber(s) description, their clothing, appearance or unique features, money or items taken, and other information to assist responding officers.
- **Protect the Scene of the Crime** - Be careful not to touch anything to avoid destroying evidence.
- **Identify Any Witnesses** - Ask any witnesses to stay until police arrive. If they cannot stay, get their name, address and phone number.
- **Note Important Information Immediately** - Write down all suspect information immediately and do not discuss the robbery with others until questioned by the police. Comparing notes could cause memories to be skewed.
- **Support Services Available** - After the commission of a crime and the following days/weeks thereafter, you may replay the incident over and over again in your mind, making it harder to move forward. You may need to manage practical along with emotional impact of a crime and this is where Victim Support Scotland can provide you with free tailored confidential advice. Their support and advice can continue right through to attending court and refer you onto other agencies, contact your GP, housing associations etc.

You can either self-refer or on police attending the scene, they can put a referral request in on your behalf.

Don't chase, follow or challenge the robber(s) as you may end up with serious injuries.

Police emergency: **999**

Police non-emergency: **101**

Crime Stoppers (anonymous reporting): **0800 555 111**

Online Reporting Form (for issues of a non-serious nature): **scotland.police.uk/secureforms**

Text Relay: **1800 1101** for deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or speech-impaired callers. (Must already be registered for this service).

Victim Support Scotland: **0800 160 1985**

For more crime prevention advice, visit to our website **scotland.police.uk** or follow our social media pages.

Facebook: **Greater Glasgow Police Division**

Twitter: **@GreaterGlasPol**



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