



Upper Darby Township Police Department

Investigations Division

Superintendent of Police: Michael J. Chitwood
Division Commanding Officer: Captain George Rhoades

Below, you will find useful information if you have been the victim of a burglary

The police officer taking your initial report will notify the Investigations Division, and a Criminal Investigator will respond to your location, or if circumstances dictate, contact you by telephone. The investigator will collect more detailed information from you, and depending on the nature of your incident, may utilize one or more of the following investigative techniques while at your property:

- Take digital photographs or video
- Process for physical evidence such as fingerprints or DNA
- Remove items for evidence processing
- Conduct a neighborhood canvass

Your may be asked to assist in the investigation in any of the following ways:

- Check local pawn or jewelry shops for your items
- Contact banks or financial institutions and obtain information regarding account activity
- Contact telephone or Internet service providers to obtain pertinent information
- Come to police headquarters and provide a fingerprint or DNA sample for elimination purposes.

Some important things you should know:

You can rest assured that every burglary handled by the Upper Darby Police Department is investigated thoroughly and professionally; however, it is important to know that evidence collection and processing is not as sophisticated or glamorous as it is made out to be on television. Fingerprint and DNA evidence can be very difficult to obtain, and DNA results could take more than a year to receive from the laboratory. Keeping this in mind, the investigator assigned will **always** utilize the maximum amount of resources available to him/her for the circumstance.

Fingerprint dust is extremely messy and very difficult to clean. If you have an article or piece of furniture that you absolutely do not want to be exposed, please discuss this with the investigator prior to the dust being applied.

If the investigator removes an item from your home, the item will be processed and placed into evidence. Some of the techniques used to process evidence could damage or ruin your item. You could also experience a long period of time (possibly months) before you may be able to retrieve your item. Again, this should be discussed with the assigned investigator.

During the investigation, your assigned investigator will keep you abreast of the situation and provide updates as to the status of the case. You will be contacted by victim's rights advocates and notified of all court appearances. It is important to notify your assigned investigator immediately upon change of address or telephone number. You are always welcomed to contact your assigned investigator with questions or concerns involving your incident.

You should know that a crime **cannot**, and **will not**, be investigated without a cooperating victim. If you choose not to cooperate or make an identification, criminal charges **will not** be lodged and the investigation will be **closed**. It is a person's Constitutional Right to face their accuser in court, and if an arrest is made, you will be **REQUIRED** to appear for court proceedings and testify on behalf of the Commonwealth. Knowing this information, please make an informed decision at the onset of the investigation as to which avenue you will choose to take.