

**If you are a victim of a property crime, you may:**

- Feel shocked, confused, angry, sad, powerless, guilty, or embarrassed.
- Be very upset, even if what was taken wasn't worth a lot of money.
- Feel hopeless about whether anything can be done to get your property back.
- Be afraid to go back to (or near) the place where the crime happened.
- Feel suspicious of everyone around you.

Remember, involvement in a traumatic event can produce upsetting responses such as disturbed sleep, diminished appetite, and difficulty concentrating. These responses will likely subside with time. However, if reactions are especially long lasting or troubling, you may need to turn to a professional for assistance.

**If your vehicle has been stolen or recovered after being stolen:**

If your vehicle has been stolen it is important to report it immediately to the police. Once a report is made, your vehicle will be entered into a database as “*stolen*”.

If you find your vehicle before the police do, be sure to contact them immediately so it can be removed from the database.

If the police “*recover*” or find your vehicle it may be towed. If this occurs, it is important to pick up your vehicle as soon as possible, as this process typically incurs daily fees which you as the owner are responsible to pay.

**Resource and Referral Information  
El Mirage Non-Emergency (Police)**

(623) 933-1341

**Maricopa County Sheriff Office/Victim Notification Unit**

(For Victims Only: Offender Booking & Release Information)  
602-876-8276

**Social Security Fraud Hotline**

1-800-269-0271 ([www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov))

**AZ Dept. of Motor Vehicles  
Driver's License Fraud Unit**

(602) 938-4425

**Annual Credit Report (free)**

[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

**EQUIFAX**

1-888-766-0008  
[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

**EXPERIAN**

1-888-397-3742  
[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

**TRANSUNION**

1-800-680-7289  
[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

**Crime, Fraud & Victim Resource Center**

(602)-542-2123

**Office for Victims of Crime  
U.S. Department of Justice**

[www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov)

**El Mirage Police Department  
Victim Assistance Unit  
12401 W Cinnabar Ave  
El Mirage, AZ 85335  
623-500-3090  
[vau@cityofelmirage.org](mailto:vau@cityofelmirage.org)**

# Property Crime

## City of El Mirage Police Department

## Victim Assistance Unit

**El Mirage Police Department**

**Victim Assistance Unit**

City of  
12401 W Cinnabar Ave  
El Mirage, AZ 85335  
623-500-3090  
[vau@cityofelmirage.org](mailto:vau@cityofelmirage.org)  
Arizona  
GRAND HERITAGE. BRIGHT FUTURE!

## What is a property crime?

**Property Crimes** are crimes that involve things that you own, like property and vehicles. If someone breaks, damages, or vandalizes something of yours, that is also a property crime. Examples include:

- **Theft** ● **Fraud** ● **Vehicle Theft**
- **Identity Theft** ● **Trespassing**
- **Burglary** ● **Criminal Damage**

**Theft** is when someone takes something you own away from you without you knowing it.

**Fraud** is when someone fraudulently uses your credit cards, bank accounts or numerous other things that involve pretending to be you.

**Vehicle Theft** is when someone takes a vehicle or means of transportation that you own away from you without you giving them permission.

**Identity Theft** is when someone uses your personal identifying information fraudulently to obtain credit, take out loans, open accounts, and get identification or numerous other things that involve pretending to be you.

**Trespassing** is when someone enters your property or vehicle without your permission.

**Burglary** is when someone enters your property or vehicle without your permission and with the intent to commit theft or a felony crime.

**Criminal Damage** is when someone breaks, vandalizes or damages something that you own.

## What should you do?

**Contact Police:** report the crime and any items stolen. If you find there is additional information to report, contact the El Mirage Police Department Non-Emergency number to complete a supplement report.

**Restitution:** If your case is forwarded for prosecution, as a victim, you have rights. One of those rights is to restitution, which is money the offender can be ordered to replace the items taken or destroyed in the crime. For more information on restitution and your rights as a victim, contact Victim Assistance at 623-500-3090.

For many, this may be the first involvement with law enforcement or the judicial system. As with any situation, education and information about how the judicial system operates can assist the victim and their family in the reduction of trauma.

### Other things to consider...

**Contact your insurance company:** for personal items a homeowners or renters policy may provide coverage. For automobile damages, an auto policy may be able to provide coverage.

**Take pictures:** document the crime for your records and for your insurance records.

**Driver's License:** If you have your driver's license stolen, you must apply for a duplicate at once. This can be done online at <http://servicearizona.com>.

**Passport:** Inform both the police and the office that issued your passport that it has been stolen.

**Student ID/Work ID:** Notify your school, college, and/or place of employment immediately.

**Prescription Medications:** If you had medication stolen, report to police and your local pharmacy.

**Keys:** If you've had keys stolen, it's a good idea to have locks changed, especially with house and car keys. This is even more important if the thief has your address. While this can be expensive, it will avoid giving a criminal easy access to your property and may give you peace of mind. If you've lost office or work keys, think what other steps you can take to protect your security. Sometimes your insurance may help you with the costs of changing the locks.

**Credit, debit, store cards:** Tell the company or bank concerned as soon as possible if your cards are stolen – first by phone, followed by a letter or email to confirm. Most card companies and all major banks have a 24-hour lost/stolen card service. If you believe that your bank account or credit card details have been obtained by someone else, then you should inform your bank or finance company as soon as possible.

**Debit Cards:** Do not give your PIN number to anyone. Do not write it down or carry it around with you. Thieves sometimes call and pretend to be your bank to ask your PIN number after they steal your cards. Banks don't normally ask for your PIN number. So if this happens, don't give the information, ask for their number and say you will call back. Then contact the police immediately.