



After A Robbery

**Pima County Attorney's Office
Victim Services Division**

Contact us Monday through Friday – 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(520) 740-5525

What is robbery?

Robbery is taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of another by force, by threat of force or violence. If a weapon is used, it is called armed robbery and law enforcement and the courts usually consider it to be more serious than robbery without a weapon. ***Robbery is not only a property crime but also a crime against a person – a crime that might result in violence.***

Robberies involve not only the loss of property but also the threat or use of violence. Robberies occur more frequently than either rape or homicide. Unlike victims of rape or other personal assaults, victims of robbery seldom know their assailants. Only 26% of robbery victims know the robber. Of all violent crimes, robbery is most likely to be committed by more than one offender.

Robberies may occur in the home, on the street, on public transportation, or in a place of business such as a bank, store, or hotel. Home invasions and push-in robberies (where entrance is gained by following someone to their door or by ruse) can be particularly traumatizing and can easily escalate into violence.

Because robbery victims encounter robbers face-to-face or in close proximity, the victims often feel total and immediate loss of control. When a weapon is involved, the sense of helplessness and the fear of death can be strong. Most property stolen during a robbery is never recovered, and financial losses can be substantial. If the stolen property has unique or sentimental value for the victim, emotional reactions can be very intense.

If you are a robbery survivor . . .

As a robbery victim, you may have many feelings, thoughts, and reactions to what happened. You may feel angry at the robber, the police, and legal system for not doing enough. You may feel intense sadness and grief over possessions that were stolen. You may fear the robber will return or that another robbery could occur. Although you did nothing wrong, you may feel guilt that something you did led to the robbery. You may feel nervous in crowds or suspicious when you are alone with someone you do not know. You may have nightmares or flashbacks about the robbery. You may find that you startle more easily at little noises or abrupt movements. You also may feel vulnerable and that you are not in control of your life.

The way victims react to robberies varies from person to person. Your reactions may be immediate or delayed. You may feel as if you are the only one experiencing these feelings and that no one else can understand what you are going through. Your reactions are normal. Some reactions may decrease within a few days; others may continue for some time or resurface when triggered by another event.

It is important for you to deal with and resolve your crisis reactions at your own pace. Just as everyone reacts to a crisis differently, not everyone re-assembles his or her life in the same way or within the same timeframe. Many victims find it helpful to speak with others about the robbery experience and about their crisis reactions. As victims talk about their robbery, over time they put the incident into perspective and begin to cope with its consequences.

Where can you get help?

Remember, as a robbery victim, you are not alone. Your community has victim assistance programs, caring professionals, and support groups to help you by providing information, services, and referrals. If the robbery involved an injury or threat of injury, you may be eligible for reimbursement by the Arizona Crime Victim Compensation program for certain out-of-pocket expenses that are related to the robbery, such as medical or counseling expenses, and lost wages. To be eligible for these funds, you must report the robbery to the police within 72 hours and cooperate with the criminal justice system. Victim Advocates from the Pima County Attorney's Office can help you determine your eligibility and fill out compensation applications.

Remember, it is important to keep a record of expenses incurred as a result of the robbery. If the offender is arrested and convicted, you may request restitution by completing a restitution affidavit and listing your losses. Restitution for certain losses may be ordered by a judge as part of the sentence imposed on the offender. However, in many cases, the defendant may not have sufficient assets or income to pay restitution. It is possible that if an offender is convicted and ordered to pay restitution, a victim may receive only partial, or no, restitution for his or her losses.

Important phone numbers

Emergency	911
Community Information & Referral	(800) 352-3792
S.A.M.H.C. (24-hr. mental health)	(520) 622-6000
Crime Victim Compensation	(520) 740-5525
Pre-Trial Services	(520) 740-3310
Justice/Superior Court Calendar	(520) 740-4240
City Court Victim Services	(520) 791-4104

Tucson Police Department

Non-emergency	(520) 791-4444
Records	(520) 791-4461
Detectives	(520) 791-4455
Victim Notification	(520) 741-7344

Pima County Sheriff's Department

Records	(520) 351-4650
Detectives	(520) 741-4829



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