



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 robbery

The Upper Darby Police Department is committed to assisting you by:

- Requesting emergency medical treatment
- Notifying your loved ones
- Identifying and apprehending offenders
- Locating stolen property

As part of the initial investigation, the police officer assisting you may do any of the following:

- Conduct an initial interview to collect information needed by responding police officers
- Drive you around the area to view and/or identify possible suspects
- Ask you to respond to the Investigations Division for a formal interview
- If the incident takes place in the early morning hours, you may be contacted by an investigator during business hours
- If it is determined that physical evidence such as fingerprints or DNA could have been left at the scene, an investigator will respond to process and/or collect such evidence and take digital photographs or video
- Police officers or investigators will conduct an area canvass

Once in the Investigations Division, a Criminal Investigator may do any of the following:

- Conduct a formal interview including the completion of a signed written statement
- Ask you to view photographs of possible offenders
- If you have items that could be processed for physical evidence, you may be asked to surrender those items

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

- Check local pawn or jewelry shops for your stolen 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 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.

You can rest assured that every robbery 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.

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.