

PROPERTY DAMAGE AND LOSS

By Iowa law, the Crime Victim Compensation Program cannot pay you for property loss or damage.

A victim of burglary may have damaged or stolen property and broken security items such as locks and windows as a result of the crime.

After you report the burglary to law enforcement, contact your homeowner insurance agent to determine what is covered by your policy. If you are a renter, contact your landlord and renter insurance agent.

If the offender is convicted, you can ask the prosecutor for a form describing your financial losses. The prosecutor can then request an order that restitution for the loss be paid to you part of the offender's sentence.

You may also be eligible for a program of the Iowa Attorney General's Office that is funded entirely with fines and penalties paid by convicted criminals.

The Crime Victim Compensation Program reimburses eligible crime victims for certain out of pocket expenses due to injury from crime. Eligibility requires that the crime is reported to law enforcement within 72-hours and that an application is made to the program within 2 years of the crime. The application can be filed even if there is no arrest or conviction of the perpetrator.

The Crime Victim Compensation Program pays a victim's expenses after insurance and other payers have paid. Victims of burglary often apply for crime-related expenses such as:

- **Counseling or Medical services.**
- **Lost wages due to emotional injury or time at criminal justice procedures.**
- **Replacement of medical items like medications, wheelchairs, or eyeglasses.**
- **Replace security items like locks & windows.**

FEELINGS OFTEN EXPERIENCED BY BURGLARY VICTIMS

Burglary may be experienced as violation of ones home, trust, and safety. Some people benefit from counseling to deal with the trauma of a burglary. Feelings often felt after a burglary:

Sense of Violation You may experience a sense of being violated. Your private space has been invaded. Your personal possessions may have been taken, damaged or handled by people you don't know or trust. Your home might not feel the same to you.

Anger and Frustration You may be furious at the burglars who touched or took personal items or items of sentimental value. You may be frustrated with the police and legal system if an offender isn't identified, prosecuted, and convicted. You may be irritated by the time interruption in your daily routine. You may be discouraged about the unfairness of it all.

Increased Fears You may experience increased fears or that it will happen to you again. You may be afraid of noises. You may be afraid of being alone in your home, especially at night. You may jump when the phone rings, someone knocks at the door, or a dog barks. You may be afraid that burglar will return to cause further harm. Each time you return home, you may wonder if your house is safe or has been burglarized again.

Loss of Control You may experience an acute sense of helplessness and loss of control. Your home may feel unsafe and changed. The police may not have enough evidence to make an arrest. You may be focused on the crime, what is missing, insurance forms, new locks, etc. You may have flashbacks of walking into the chaos of your home, or nightmares about the break-in. It may seem like the burglary has control of your life.

Sense of Guilt, and "Why Me?" You may feel a sense of guilt because you didn't lock the doors and windows, leave the light on, mark your possessions, or install deadbolts. You may experience an intense need to know why this happened and wonder what you could have done to prevent it.

Loss Of Trust In Other People You may experience a loss of basic trust in other people, become suspicious of strangers, or suspect people in your neighborhood of being the burglars. You may isolate yourself from other people to avoid contact with anyone you don't know well. If the person you think broke into your home is someone you know, you may feel a loss of faith in your own judgment.

Am I Going Crazy? As you experience difficult feelings, you may wonder if you are going crazy. You may wonder why you seem to be getting worse or why the feelings are lasting so long. You may never have known anyone else who experienced these things or thought it could happen to you. You are not going crazy. **You are having a normal reaction to an abnormal and traumatizing experience.**

Will These Feelings Ever Go Away?

All of these feelings and reactions are natural responses to the trauma of victimization. Your experience will vary from others, but many victims share these common responses.

The intensity of feeling and reactions likely will start to lighten after the initial three to six weeks. You will feel better after time has passed, but you probably will never forget the burglary.

You can help your recovery by talking about your feelings and thoughts with a good listener or counselor. Avoiding the feelings can only delay your recovery from the crime.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

Many people feel safer after making their homes more physically secure with new or better locks, more lighting, or an alarm system. Some people get a watchdog. Some work out strategies with neighbors to watch one another's properties. Any preventive measures you do to help make your home more secure will help you regain a sense of control.

Some people think about getting weapons or consider keeping their weapons loaded. Be very careful if you choose to get or load weapons. When you are hyper vigilant, or "jumpy," a loaded weapon in close reach could end in disaster.

Contact your Police Department Or County Sheriff's Office

Law enforcement agencies can help you take action and give you burglary prevention tips and property identification kits. They may increase neighborhood patrols or help form neighborhood watch programs. Law Enforcement can help you with assessing the effectiveness of your security system, locks, and windows.

CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION
(515) 281-5044 OR 1-800-373-5044.

APPLICATION MAY BE MADE BY
TELEPHONE OR ONLINE AT
WWW.IOWAATTORNEYGENERAL.GOV

KEEP THIS INFORMATION IF YOU APPLY:

CLAIM NUMBER: _____

COMPENSATION SPECIALIST: _____

A MESSAGE TO BURGLARY VICTIMS ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM MILLER

As a victim of burglary, you may have suffered some level of property loss and damage. Your daily routine may have been interrupted and made more difficult as a result of the crime. If the burglary was in your home, you may also suffer emotional trauma resulting in difficult and confusing feelings.

It is my hope that this brochure will give you the information to find solutions and recover from the crime committed against you.

The Crime Victim Compensation Program can provide financial assistance for some of the crime-related expenses. They can also refer you to local resources for counseling and support. Your sheriff or police can help you take steps to prevent burglary and help put your mind at ease.

I am sorry that you experienced a burglary.
Please let my office help.

-Attorney General Tom Miller

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Iowa Attorney General's Office
Crime Victim Assistance Division
Lucas State Office Building, Ground Floor
321 East 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515-281-5044 or 1-800-373-5044

www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov
Click on "Assisting Crime Victims"

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR



BURGLARY VICTIMS

ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM MILLER
CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE DIVISION
CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION
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