



ROBBERY

A robbery occurs when the suspect intentionally or knowingly hurts or threatens the victim while committing the offense of theft. Robbery is different from burglary in that robbery involves intentional threat or physical harm caused to the victim by the suspect, whereas burglary does not (*See Burglary*). If the suspect causes serious bodily injury, displays a weapon, or places the victim in fear of bodily injury while committing the robbery, the charge is changed to an aggravated robbery.

If you have been robbed, you first need to call 911 and file a police report, especially if you have been injured. After your initial report, if the suspect is still at large, your case will be assigned to a detective who will conduct an investigation. The detective will contact you in regards to your case and will keep you updated on any progress.

While a robbery is similar to a burglary in that it usually involves theft, the enhanced traumatic experience of threats and physical harm can have an intense and lasting impact on the victim. If you have been the victim of a robbery, you may experience different reactions including:

- anger
- frustration
- guilt
- depression
- anxiety
- fear that the suspect(s) will return
- fears of being alone in your home or where the robbery occurred
- hyper vigilance

You may have nightmares, difficulty eating or sleeping, trouble concentrating or difficulty resuming your normal activities. You might be wary of strangers or feel extremely cautious about situations that you feel could cause re-victimization.

Everyone reacts to stressful and traumatic situations differently. Know that whatever you are feeling or experiencing is normal. If you seem to have trouble for more than a few weeks, you might benefit from professional counseling.

A commercial robbery can be an equally as traumatic incident. Employers and employees are still likely to have reactions to a robbery, such as fear of returning to work or fear of being alone at work. Again, these reactions are normal. If you or your co-workers are robbed at work, talk to your employer about safety concerns and the possibility of shift changes to ensure no one works alone. It may be beneficial for the employee to utilize an Employees Assistance Program, if it is available. If none is available, Travis County Sheriff's Office Victim Services can provide crisis intervention services through our Community Response Team. For further information or to request a critical incident response, please contact TCSO Victim

Services at (512) 854-9709. Should you qualify, Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) through the Attorney General's Office may assist with the costs of counseling. TCSO Victim Services is also available to help you locate counseling, apply for CVC, and more.

What does the law say?

See: <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us>

Select:

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| <u>Code:</u> | Penal Code |
| <u>Article/Chapter:</u> | Chapter 29. Robbery |
| <u>Art. /Sec.:</u> | Sec. 29.02 Robbery |
| | Sec. 29.03 Aggravated Robbery |

Available Resources

First Call For Help (Capital Area United Way): Dial 211

www.211centraltexas.org

Provides callers with information and referral to non-profit agencies and participating businesses based on individual resource needs

Office of the Attorney General – Crime Victims Compensation: 1 (800) 983-9933

www.oag.state.tx.us/victims/about_comp.shtml