



## Reporting a crime What happens next?

Information  
for victims  
of a crime

# Are you the victim of a crime?

Did someone break into your house, for example? Or did someone assault you? If so, you can report the crime to the Dutch police. By reporting the crime, you let us know what happened and we can start an investigation.

This leaflet contains information about how to report a crime. It tells you where you can report a crime, what we will do with your report, and everything you need to know about reporting a crime to the Dutch police.

*Reporting a crime  
through the Internet:  
[www.politie.nl](http://www.politie.nl)*

## 1. What is reporting a crime?

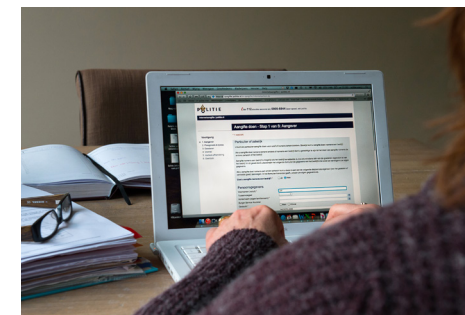
### Why report a crime?

If you let us know that you (or someone else) are the victim of a crime, we can put this in an official report. In this way, you ask us to start an investigation. Even if we do not find a suspect, it is useful to report the crime. It gives us information about what crimes are committed and where.

And it allows us to determine where and how many police are needed in the streets.

### Who can report a crime?

Anyone may report a crime to the police, including minors. If a child under the age of 13 reports a crime, we will always contact the child's parents or guardians. Sometimes children



are unable or unwilling to report a crime and their parents or guardians do this for them.

### What crimes can you report?

You can report any crime committed in the Netherlands: theft, burglary, fraud, assault, or rape, for instance. Some crimes – such as abduction – have to be reported; this is stated in the law.

If you are the victim of a crime committed outside the European Union, you should report



the offence in that country. If you are the victim of a crime committed in a member state of the European Union, you can report the crime in this member state. Are you unable to do this, for example because you are on your way home? Or has a serious crime been committed? In that case, you may also report the crime in the Netherlands.

#### How do you report a criminal offence?

Before reporting a criminal offence, you will be given information about what happens during your report and afterwards. There are several ways to report a criminal offence:

- By Internet: [www.politie.nl](http://www.politie.nl).
- By telephone, **+31 900 - 88 44**.
- At a **police station**. You are free to choose any police station. You can make an appointment by calling +31 900 - 88 44.

Sometimes there are other options, for example at your home. The best way for you to report a criminal offence also depends on what happened. The options are explained at

[www.politie.nl](http://www.politie.nl). You can also call +31 900 - 88 44. We will then help you make a choice.

## 2. Preparing for your report

#### What are your rights?

Are you the victim of a crime? Or are you a surviving relative of a victim? If so, you have a number of rights. Below you can read about these rights. These are rights that you can exercise if you want. These rights also apply if you do not live in the Netherlands or if you have no residency status in the Netherlands. More information about your rights can be found at [www.rijksoverheid.nl/slachtofferbeleid](http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/slachtofferbeleid).

#### You have a right to information

You have a right to information – not only about your rights, but also about reporting a crime and about what happens to your case after that. If you want, the police and the Public Prosecution Service will keep you informed about your case. If you have any questions about what is happening to your

case, you should call the police or the Public Prosecution Service. If any of your property has been seized, you have a right to information about this.

#### You have a right to assistance

There are several organizations you can contact for free assistance, advice, and information: like Victim Support Netherlands. You can contact them even if you do not report the criminal offence. Victim Support Netherlands can provide legal, practical and emotional support. An overview of organizations that can help you can be found at [www.slachtofferwijzer.nl](http://www.slachtofferwijzer.nl)

#### You can be given protection

Do you fear for your safety? Are you afraid that you may be the victim of another offence, for example? If so, you should talk to us about this. Together with you, we will assess what we can do to protect you and what action you can take yourself. If you report a crime to the police, you can ask us not to put your address in your report, for example.

#### May someone help you report the crime?

You may always be represented by a lawyer, for example if you report to the police. In a number of cases, legal aid is free. If you want someone else to represent you, for example a friend, a family member, or a staff member of Victim Support Netherlands, you can request this. If you are not allowed to do so, we will explain to you why not. Victim Support Netherlands can help you find a lawyer.

#### Free interpreter

Do you find Dutch difficult? If so, you should ask the police or the public prosecutor for an interpreter. If we arrange an interpreter for you, for example during the report to the police or the interview, this will be free of charge. If you want a written translation of the documents about your report or the criminal case, you should send a letter to the public prosecutor or the judge. Victim Support Netherlands or a lawyer can help you with this.

### What else to consider before reporting a crime?

- Try to remember what happened exactly. Where did it happen? At what time? Did you see the offender? What did he or she look like? Did you see anything else, for example a car? Were other people around? The more you can specify this, the more likely we will find a suspect.
- Was any property stolen? If so, try to remember what property was stolen. And what this property looks like. Do you have any photographs showing the property or serial numbers of the television or computer, for example? Please bring these photographs with you when you report the crime.
- Please bring your passport, identity card, driving licence or Dutch aliens' document with you when you report the crime.

## 3. Reporting to the police

### What is the reporting procedure?

- If you report a crime via the Internet, you answer all questions and write your report yourself. In order to report a crime via Internet, you will need a DigiD.
- If you report a crime by telephone, at the police station, or at your home or work, we will talk to you first. If you are a victim, we will ask you a number of additional questions. One of the questions is whether you want to be kept informed of your case. You are not obliged to answer all questions.
- Please tell us if you don't understand a question.
- You must tell the truth when you report a crime.
- Anything you say will be written down in the report. After that, you can read whether we have written everything down correctly. We can also read your report to you. If you agree

with the contents of the report, you sign it.

After you have signed the report, you can no longer change it. The report will then be final. You can still add to your report, however.

- Is there any damage to your property, or were you injured for example? Or do you have psychological damage because you were very shocked or scared? Please tell us this when you report the crime. It is often possible to request compensation from the offender, so it is important that this damage is described in detail in your report.
- We need your contact details so that we can provide you with information. If you move house or have a new telephone number or e-mail address, you should notify us.
- We will give you a copy of your report or a confirmation of your report. This confirmation can be given to you in Dutch, English, German, or French. If you want the confirmation in another language, you should ask for an interpreter.

*Victim Support  
Netherlands can help  
you. Call +31 900 0101.*

### Privacy

If you are a victim, we are allowed to pass on your details to Victim Support Netherlands. Victim Support Netherlands will then get in touch with you. If you do not want this, you can inform us of this. We will record this. Victim Support Netherlands is not allowed to pass on your details to anyone else. If the police find a suspect, the suspect's lawyer will receive a copy of your report. This will allow the lawyer to prepare for the suspect's defence.

### Investigation by the police

After your report, we will start an investigation. We will let you know how the investigation is going. Sometimes we will let you know in person. In other cases, we will send you a letter or you can retrieve the information yourself on your personal page at [www.politie.nl](http://www.politie.nl). In case of crimes such as a burglary or assault, we will also give you an update on the investigation. If you have any questions about the next steps in your case, you should call the police or the Public Prosecution Service.

In some situations, we will not start an investigation. Or we will discontinue the investigation without having arrested the offender. Sometimes there is too little information available and we are unable to trace the suspect of a crime. We will let you know if we do not start an investigation or discontinue the investigation and we will give reasons for doing

## 4. After your report

### Can you withdraw your report at a later time?

Do you regret having reported the crime? Or are you now afraid? And do you therefore want to withdraw your report at a later time? This is not possible. You can, however, go to the police station and let the police know what is going on. The police will discuss this with the public prosecutor. The public prosecutor decides what happens to your report or to the investigation.

### What will we do with your report?

We use your report to trace the offender and to determine where police are needed in the streets. If there are sufficient leads, we will start an investigation. You may be asked some additional questions.



so. If you disagree with this, you can send a letter to the public prosecutor or file a complaint with the Court of Appeal. The message from the police will state what you should do in your case. Victim Support Netherlands can help you with this.

## 5. Further criminal proceedings

### We have arrested a suspect. What happens next?

If we agreed with you that we will give you an update on the investigation, the Public Prosecution Service will contact you. The Public Prosecution Service will inform you about what's going to happen, the date of any proceedings, and your rights. Moreover, you can always contact the Victim Support Desk for information about your report, the investigation, and any criminal case. Information about how to contact the Victim Support Desk can be found at [www.slachtofferloket.nl](http://www.slachtofferloket.nl). If the public prosecutor decides not to prosecute, you will be informed of this in a letter explaining why the case has been dismissed. The letter also contains information about what you can do if you disagree with this decision.

### Do you want to talk to the offender?

Some victims would like to talk to the suspect or offender. You can also send a letter. Victim Support Netherlands can refer you to organizations that will help you to come into contact with a suspect or offender. They will then ask the suspect or offender if he wants contact with you. If this is the case, you are allowed to contact the individual.

*More information about your rights during the criminal proceedings can be found at [www.rijksoverheid.nl/slachtofferbeleid](http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/slachtofferbeleid).*

### Did you suffer damage as a result of the crime?

- If you suffered any damage, you should contact your insurer immediately. Your insurer often asks you to send them a copy of your police report. You should then send a copy of the report or the confirmation and keep the original document.
- If we **have arrested a suspect**, the public prosecutor or the judge may decide that the offender has to pay for your damage. This could be, for example, compensation for your damaged or stolen property, medical expenses, or income you have missed out on. For this purpose, the Public Prosecution Service will give you a claim form. If, after eight months following the decision of the public prosecutor or the judge, you still have not received the full amount, the Central Fine Collection Agency (CJIB) may pay all or part of this amount to you in advance.
- **Are you the victim of a serious violent crime?** Or did someone murder your partner, your child, or your father or mother? Then the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (*Schadefonds Geweldsmisdrijven*) can pay you an amount. You can find more information at [www.schadefonds.nl](http://www.schadefonds.nl) or call the Compensation Fund at +31 70 - 414 20 00.



### We have found your property. What happens next?

- If we find your stolen property, the property can usually be returned to you, but this will sometimes take a long time.
- If the offender wants to give the property back to you, you can come to the police station to collect it.
  - If the offender refuses to give the property back to you, you can ask the public prosecutor for the property to be returned to you. The public prosecutor will let you know when you can collect the property.
  - If your property has been seized as evidence in the criminal case, you have a right to know where your property is stored and whether and when it will be returned to you. Victim Support Netherlands can help you reclaim your property. More information about the seizure of property can be found on the website of the Public Prosecution Service.

### What other rights do I have during criminal proceedings?

- You may ask to inspect the records of the criminal case. You can ask the public prosecutor or judge for this. You can also ask the public prosecutor to add documents to the records of your case. A lawyer or Victim Support Netherlands can help you with this.
- Are you the victim of a serious criminal offence or a surviving relative of the victim? And will there be a criminal hearing? If so, you may address the court about your wishes, for example about the punishment you believe would be appropriate for the suspect or about what consequences the criminal offence has for you. Sometimes you can also have a meeting with the public prosecutor before the hearing. A lawyer or Victim Support Netherlands can help you prepare for this meeting.

- If you want, the public prosecutor will keep you informed if the suspect or the offender is given leave or released, or if he were to escape.

#### Who pays for your expenses in a criminal case?

Are you a witness in a criminal case? And have you, as a result, incurred travel expenses or expenses because you are unable to work? If so, you may reclaim these expenses from the government. The summons or notice to appear will contain more information about this.

#### Do you have a complaint?

The police, public prosecutor and the judge must treat you fairly. And they have to take into account what matters to you. If you have a complaint about the police, you can fill in the complaints form at [www.politie.nl](http://www.politie.nl). Or call us at +31 900 - 88 44.

## Important telephone numbers

Emergency number for the police, fire brigade or ambulance: ..... 112

Police: ..... +31 900 - 8844

Crimestoppers NL

(Meld Misdad Anoniem): ..... +31 800 - 7000

Police from abroad: ..... +31 - 343 57 8844

Victim Support Netherlands: .... +31 900 - 0101

The telephone number of the local victim support desk can be found at [www.slachtofferloket.nl](http://www.slachtofferloket.nl).

#### For the deaf and hard of hearing

Emergency number for the police,

fire brigade or ambulance: ..... +31 800 - 8112

Police: ..... +31 900 - 1844

## Websites

[www.politie.nl](http://www.politie.nl)

[www.slachtofferhulp.nl](http://www.slachtofferhulp.nl)

[www.om.nl](http://www.om.nl)

[www.slachtofferwijzer.nl](http://www.slachtofferwijzer.nl)

[www.slachtofferloket.nl](http://www.slachtofferloket.nl)

[www.schadefonds.nl](http://www.schadefonds.nl)

[www.vooreenveiligthuis.nl](http://www.vooreenveiligthuis.nl)

[www.centrumseksueelgeweld.nl](http://www.centrumseksueelgeweld.nl)

[www.slachtofferinbeeld.nl](http://www.slachtofferinbeeld.nl)

[www.meldmisdaadanoniem.nl](http://www.meldmisdaadanoniem.nl)

[www.politiekeurmerk.nl](http://www.politiekeurmerk.nl)

[www.rechtsbijstand.nl](http://www.rechtsbijstand.nl)

[www.rechtspraak.nl](http://www.rechtspraak.nl)

[www.rijksoverheid.nl](http://www.rijksoverheid.nl)

[www.juridischloket.nl](http://www.juridischloket.nl)

[www.verlorenofgevonden.nl](http://www.verlorenofgevonden.nl)

## Police on social media

Twitter ..... [www.twitter.com/politie](http://www.twitter.com/politie)

Facebook ..... [www.facebook.com/politie](http://www.facebook.com/politie)

YouTube ..... [www.youtube.com/politie](http://www.youtube.com/politie)

Download the police app ('*politie app*')