

REPORTING A CRIME

If you are reporting a robbery, either one that is an in-progress emergency or one that has already happened, call 911.

There are interpreter and TTY services available for 911.

WHEN YOU MAKE A REPORT

- If you can, give the officer as much detail as possible, including sequence of events, suspect description, any identifying characteristics.
- If there are witnesses to the incident, point them out to the officers at the scene.

CONTACT US

If you have questions, concerns or information about a specific incident, please contact the **Criminal Investigations Section** at 703.746.6711.

NOTES ABOUT YOUR INCIDENT

Responding Officer

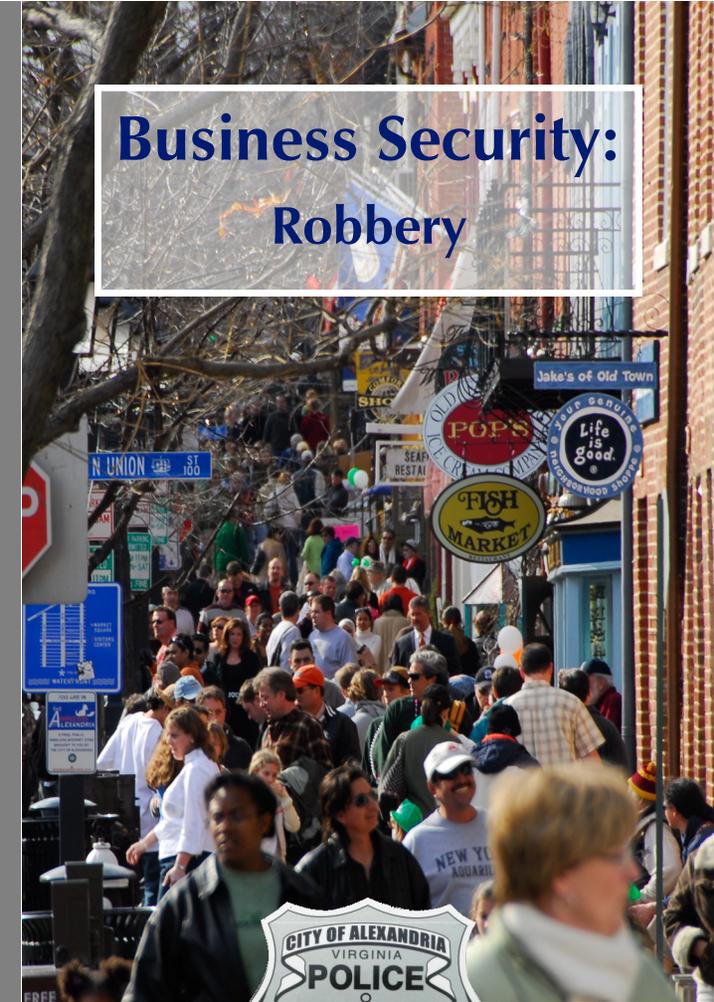
Case Number

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Alexandria Police Department

3600 Wheeler Avenue

Alexandria, VA 22304



Business Security: Robbery



Alexandria Police Department
alexandriava.gov/police

WHAT IS ROBBERY?

The definition of robbery is not specifically stated in the *Code of Virginia* but is found in common law. Robbery is defined through case law as taking, with intent to steal, personal property of another, from his person or in his presence, against his will, by violence or intimidation.

Virginia law does prescribe how robbery is to be punished, stating that someone who commits robbery shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by confinement in a state correctional facility for life or any term of not less than five years. (*Code of Virginia* § 18.2-58)

PREVENTION

Keep a Clear View from Outside

- Make sure you and your cash register are clearly visible from outside. Create a "fishbowl" look. Limit use of window signs and floor displays. If you can see out easily, passer-bys and police can see in.

Keep Cash Register Money to a Minimum

- Place large bills in a drop safe or other secure device as soon as you get them.
- Ask customers if they have exact change or smaller bills. This will help you minimize the money in your register.
Record the serial number of several bills ("bait money") that are given out only in the event of a robbery.

Turn all Lighting on at Night

- Be certain you have adequate inside and outside lighting. Eliminate any dark areas.
- Utilize photo sensors to insure lights come on at night.
- Replace burnt out bulbs promptly.

Keep your Business Looking Neat and Clean

- A neat and clean environment is great for business but uncomfortable for most robbers.
- When not making a sale, stay away from the register. Most robbers do not like to spend the extra time it takes to bring you back to the sales counter.

Keep Alert

- Know what is happening outside as well as inside your business.
- Watch for loiterers and ask them to leave.
- Greet everyone who enters your business.

Don't be afraid to call police (911) when you see suspicious persons or activity.

IF YOU ARE ROBBED

Cooperate with the Suspect

- Do exactly as you are told. If you don't understand what you are being told to do, ask.
- Give the suspect(s) what they want. Don't argue.
- Don't move too quickly or reach for anything. Tell the suspect(s) what you are doing.

Keep it Short and Smooth

- The longer the robbery takes the more nervous the robber is.
- The average robbery takes less than 2 minutes.

Don't Resist

- Don't fight.
- Don't use weapons.
- Don't chase the suspect(s).

Be Observant

- Observe the person(s) involved for the purpose of describing clothing and physical features.
- Observe the person or persons' means of escape, direction of travel and description of vehicle.

Call Police (9-1-1) After the Robbery is Over

- Stay on the phone until police tell you to hang up.
- Record the suspect(s) description on an "I.D." form or piece of paper.

Protect the Crime Scene

Don't touch anything. There may be suspect(s) finger prints or other physical evidence crucial to the investigation.