

# Burglary

Information and  
advice from  
Victim Support

Burglary is a serious but very common crime. It is estimated that there are around a million incidents in the UK each year. Burglaries can happen in many different ways. You may have been away from home at the time. Perhaps you were there and someone tricked their way in, or you were busy or asleep. And a burglary isn't always a one-off event - some people may have been burgled many times or may be suffering other crimes as well, such as harassment.

## **Victim Support can help**

We get in touch with 1.7 million people affected by crime each year. However you are feeling, and whenever the burglary or other crimes took place, you can talk to someone from Victim Support free of charge and in complete confidence. We can help, regardless of whether or not you have told the police or anyone else.

Most victims of crime want to talk to someone about what has happened and how they are feeling. Friends and family can be very helpful, but our volunteers are specially trained to listen and understand. We can also offer useful information to help you deal with some of the problems a crime has caused. Sometimes we can arrange practical help too.

Burglary affects people in a wide range of different ways. People can be affected by burglary even if none of their property has been stolen. Most people are upset just at the thought that someone has been in their home against their wishes. Some people no longer feel secure in their home after a burglary. Children in particular can be frightened. Anyone affected, in whatever way, can contact Victim Support.

## **How we can help**

We help people who have been burgled in a number of ways:

- Many victims of burglary feel much better after talking to someone independent of friends and family who is trained to listen. Some people might need much more help, which we can arrange.
- People who have been burgled often need specialist advice to help them avoid it happening again. We can put you in touch with the right people if we can't help you to sort it out ourselves.
- If you cannot afford to have security improvements such as new locks fitted, we can sometimes organise practical help.
- If you are having problems as a result of crime we can also help you to deal with people such as your landlord, the housing department, police, social security, or insurance company.

## **How to contact us**

Most people are referred to us by the police when they report a crime. But anyone can contact us directly if they want to. You can find details of your local branch on the back of this leaflet, on the Victim Support website ([www.victimsupport.org](http://www.victimsupport.org)) or in the phonebook. You can also call the Victim Supportline on 0845 30 30 900 for support and information.

We hope that you will get in touch with us, but if you decide not to now, you can call us at any point in the future.

If you have not reported the burglary to the police, you may want to talk to us about that. If you have home insurance, you will need a crime reference number from the police to make a claim.

## **Some practical ideas**

It's a sad fact that after a burglary you are at a higher risk of being burgled again. Many organisations, including the police, can offer you information and advice about preventing burglaries in the future.

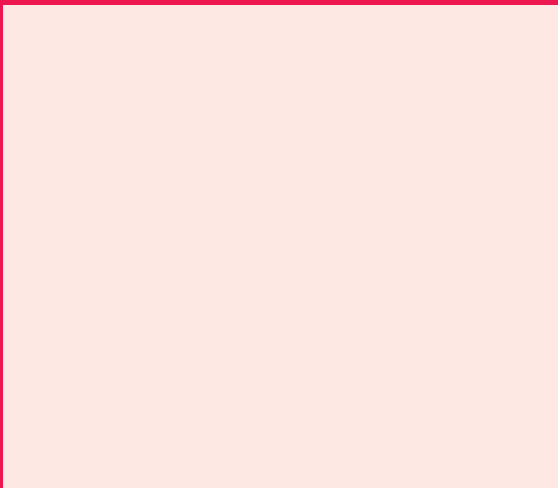
But you may find these simple tips helpful:

- You will need to let organisations and other 'officials' know if certain things have been taken. Things to check for include bank cards, cheque books, passports, benefit books, mobile phones, birth certificates and driving licences. It's particularly important to notify banks quickly so that they can prevent fraud and further theft.
- Try to get your home secured as quickly as possible. If you are in rented accommodation, tell your landlord about any necessary repairs. If you own your home, you will need to make your own arrangements.
- Look into ways of making your home more secure. Some security measures can be expensive. But there are other things you can do that cost much less, such as leaving lights or a radio on when you go out and checking that all doors and windows are properly closed.

## **About us**

Victim Support is the national charity for people affected by crime. Our services are free, confidential and available to everyone whether or not a crime has been reported to the police.

Contact your local Victim Support branch



Victim Supportline can also put you in touch with your local Victim Support branch.

Published by Victim Support  
President HRH The Princess Royal

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Charity Registration: 298028 Company No: 2158780  
Registered in England Limited by Guarantee  
Registered Office as above

March 2004

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