

## **Burlington Police Department Reporting Contacts**

**Emergency:  
911**

**Telephone:  
(802) 658-2700**

**Fax:  
(802) 865-7579**

**Address:  
1 North Avenue  
Burlington, VT 05401**

**[www.bpdvt.org](http://www.bpdvt.org)**

The Burlington Police Department responds to approximately 50,000 calls for service and receives approximately 110,000 telephone calls and inquiries annually. About 88 percent of the events we are called to are service oriented or are dealing with disorder in the community. About 12 percent are criminal complaints.

In an effort to provide better service to members of the community who have the misfortune of becoming victims of or witnesses to a crime, we have developed this brochure to assist you in knowing what occurs with you information and an investigation after an initial report is taken.

**Burlington Police Department  
1 North Avenue  
Burlington, VT 05401**

**TELEPHONE (802) 658-2700**

## **BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

---

### *Citizen's Guide to Investigations & Case Follow-Up*



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below you will find some of the most frequently asked questions we encounter regarding investigations and case follow-up. If you have any additional questions not addressed here, please feel free to contact us.

## AFTER I REPORT A CRIME, WHAT HAPPENS?

After an initial crime report is taken, there are a number of things that occur. While each case may be investigated differently, the following steps may be taken:

Crime scene processing; a neighborhood canvass or interviews; interviews with witnesses or potential suspects; the report is disseminated to all shifts and all on duty Officers for three to five days; information may be disseminated to other area departments regarding the crime or involved parties; search warrants or other searches for evidence and/or property may occur.

Additionally, crime data remains in computer system and can be referenced during subsequent investigations, often months or years in the future. More specifically, the following will occur.

Information Sharing – We will enter the facts about your individual circumstances into our computer, and brief all Officers on the situation for the next three days.

Analysis – Detectives will examine the reports filed by our Officers in an attempt to determine if there is a pattern.

Property – Any property that is stolen will be entered into our computer. In the event that we or another police department comes across your property, provided it is clearly identifiable, the information can be used to recover it for you.

Continued Investigation – Our Officers will make reasonable attempts to follow up on your information to determine who is responsible. Generally speaking, our best chances of making an arrest occur within the first seven days from the event.

Future Contact – Your satisfaction is important to us, but please understand that our Officers handle a high caseload. In most cases the Officer will not contact you unless we require additional information or if an arrest is made. If you have any questions regarding your case, you can generally get information from our Records Division at (802) 540-2370. If you have new information please contact your responding Officer.

## WHAT ARE THE CHANCES I WILL GET MY PROPERTY BACK?

IN SOME CASES PROPERTY IS RECOVERED EARLY IN THE INVESTIGATION. HOWEVER, IN MANY CASES THE PROPERTY IS SOLD OR DISPOSED OF QUICKLY, SOMETIMES BEFORE YOU EVEN DISCOVER OR REPORT THE CRIME. PROPERTY CAN BE SOMETIMES BE RECOVERED AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME DURING OTHER INVESTIGATIONS OR SEARCHES, AFTER BEING CROSS-REFERENCED IN COMPUTER SYSTEMS. **SERIAL NUMBERS** ARE THE MOST CRITICAL PIECE OF INFORMATION NECESSARY TO SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFY YOUR PROPERTY DURING AN INVESTIGATION.

## WILL SOMEONE FOLLOW-UP WITH ME ABOUT THE STATUS OF MY INVESTIGATION?

In some cases you will be contacted regarding the status of the investigation, with additional questions, or for further information. In many cases, however, police do not have the resources to follow-up on every report. This brochure may be distributed to answer questions about investigations and to provide you with information about how to obtain additional information about your report.

## I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT OFFICER I SPOKE TO AND I WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We strongly recommend that you obtain the Officer's business card, or write down the Officer's name and badge number as well as the Incident number. If you did not get the Officer's name, you can contact the Records Division at (802) 540-2370, or the Officer in charge (802) 540-2400 (leave a message).

## AM I ENTITLED TO ADDITIONAL VICTIM SERVICES?

Parallel Justice for Victims of Crime offers support to any victim of a crime that occurred in Burlington after July 1, 2006. They can help you apply for Victims Compensation funds, connect you to community resources, help meet your basic safety needs and more. Parallel Justice is a joint safety program of the Burlington Police Department, the Community Justice Center and the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services.

Please call **(802) 264-0764** or go to **[www.pjburlington.org](http://www.pjburlington.org)** for details.