

Reporting an offence... And then?

**INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS
OF OFFENCE**



politie.nl/slachtoffer

Are you the victim of an offence?

For example, have you been burgled? Or has someone assaulted you? If so, you can file a police report. By reporting an offence, you let us know what happened so that we can open an investigation.

This leaflet explains how to file a police report. We explain where you can do that. What we do with your report. And anything else you want to know about reporting an offence to the police.

Reporting an offence online:

www.politie.nl

1. What does filing a police report mean?

Why should you report an offence?

If you let us know that you or someone else has fallen victim to an offence, we can note it in an offence report. By doing this, you ask us to open an investigation. It is worth filing a report, even if we don't find a suspect. At least we know which offences have been committed. That helps us decide where to deploy our police patrols.

Who can file a police report?

Anyone can report an offence to the police. That includes minors. What if a child under 13 years of age reports an offence? In that case, we always contact the parents or guardians. In some cases, a child is unwilling or unable to file a report in person, so their parents or guardians do it for them.

What can you report to the police?

You can report all offences committed in the Netherlands.



For example, theft, burglary, fraud, assault, rape. Some offences must be reported, such as kidnapping. That is a legal requirement. Have you fallen victim to an offence outside the European Union? If so, you must report it in that country. Are you a victim of an offence in a European Union Member State? If so, you can file a police report in that Member State. Is this not possible, for example because you are on your way home? Or because it's a serious offence? You can also file a police report in the Netherlands.



1. Offence

Are you the victim of an offence? If so, contact the police. You can file a police report.

0900 - 8844
www.politie.nl



2. Contact with the police

Are you a victim? If so, you have a number of rights. We will tell you about them when you first contact the police.



3. Reporting an offence

- Anyone can report an offence
- There are various ways to do this.
- You will always be given a document to show that you have filed a police report.



4. Information about your case

We will keep you informed about the progress of your case.

Mijn Politie:
www.politie.nl



5. Criminal proceedings

Has a suspect or perpetrator been apprehended? Then the Public Prosecution Service will inform you about the possible criminal proceedings.

www.om.nl
www.mijnslachtofferzaak.nl
Slachtofferhulp 0900-0101.

How do I file a police report?

Before you file your report, you will be told about the reporting procedure and what happens afterwards. There are various ways of filing a police report.

- Online: www.politie.nl.

- Telephone: **0900 – 8844**.
- At a police station. You can choose which police station to go to. You can make an appointment by calling
- 0900 - 8844.

Sometimes there are other options, such as at your home. The best method for you also depends on what has happened. We explain the options at www.politie.nl. You can also call the police on 0900 - 88 44. We will help you decide what to do.

2. Preparing to file your police report

What are your rights?

Are you the victim of an offence? Or a victim's relative? If so, you have a number of rights. We have set out those rights below. You are entitled to them if you want to. You have these rights even if you do not live in the Netherlands or if you do not have residence status there. More information on your rights can be found at www.politie.nl/slachtoffer

You have a right to be given information

Not only on information about your rights, but also on how to report an offence and what is done with your case afterwards. If you wish, the police and the Public Prosecution Service will keep you informed about your case. Do you have questions about how to proceed with your case? If so, call the police or the Public Prosecution Service. Has any property been seized? If so, you have a right to information about that.

You are entitled to assistance

You can contact a number of organisations, for example Slachtofferhulp Nederland (Victim Support the Netherlands), for free assistance,

advice and information. You can do this even if you do not file a police report. Slachtofferhulp Nederland can help you legally, practically and emotionally. For a list of organisations that can help you, go to www.slachtofferwijzer.nl.

You can be given protection

Do you fear for your safety? For example, that you will be a victim again? You can talk to us about this. Together we will look at what we can do to protect you and also what you can do yourself. Have you decided to file a police report? For example, you can ask us not to put your address in your police report.

Can someone help you with the police report?

You may always be assisted by a lawyer, for example, if you file a police report. In some cases, a lawyer is free of charge. Would you like to be assisted by someone else, for example a friend, family member or an employee of Slachtofferhulp Nederland? You can ask us about this. If this is not allowed, we will explain why not. Slachtofferhulp Nederland can help you find a lawyer.

Free interpreter

Do you not fully understand Dutch? In that case, ask the police or the public prosecutor for an interpreter. Will we arrange an interpreter for you, for example during the report or hearing. This is free of charge. Would you like a written translation of the documents dealing with your report or criminal case? If so, send a letter to the public prosecutor or the judge. Slachtofferhulp Nederland or a lawyer can help you with this.

What else should you consider before filing a police report?

- Try to remember as best you can what happened. What happened? What time? Did you see the perpetrator? What did he or she look like? Did you see anything else, such as a car? Were there any other people around? The more you can tell us, the more likely we are to find a suspect.
- Was any property stolen? Try to remember what was stolen as best you can. And what those items look like. Do you have photos showing the items or serial numbers of the television or computer, for example? If so, take them with you when you file your police report.
- Bring your passport, your identity card, your driving licence or your Dutch foreign national's document with you when you file your police report.

3. Reporting an offence to the police

How does filing a police report work?

- Are you reporting online? If so, you answer all the questions and write your police report yourself. You will need a DigiD to file a police report online.
- Are you reporting by telephone, at the police station, at your home or work? In that case, we will discuss the matter with you first. If you are the victim, we will ask you some additional questions. For example, we ask you if you want to be kept

informed about your case. You are not obliged to answer all questions.

- Let us know if you do not understand a question.
- You are obliged to tell the truth in your police report.
- We write down what you say in the police report. After making your statement, you can check whether we have written everything down correctly. We may also read your statement back to you. You then sign the report if you agree with its content. After you sign, you cannot change the statement. Your police report is then final. However, you can still make additions to your report.
- For example, has your property been damaged, or have you been injured? Or are you suffering psychological problems because you are very shocked or scared? Tell us this when you make your police report. You will generally be able to demand compensation from the perpetrator. It is therefore important that these issues are properly noted in your police report.
- We need your contact details to keep you informed. Are you moving house or do you have a new phone number or e-mail address? If so, please let us know.
- We will give you a copy of your report or a confirmation that you have made one. You can be given this confirmation in Dutch, English, German or French. Would you like confirmation in another language? If so, ask for an interpreter.



4. After filing your police report

Can you withdraw your police report later?

Do you regret filing a police report? Or has something made you afraid? And do you want to withdraw your report for that reason? That is not possible. However, you can go to the police station and explain the situation to the police. The police will discuss this with the public prosecutor. The public prosecutor will decide what happens to your report or the investigation.

What do we do with your police report?

We use your report to find the perpetrator and determine our police deployment on the streets. If there are enough leads, we will investigate. We may ask you additional questions.

Privacy

If you are a victim, we may pass on your details to Slachtofferhulp

Nederland. Slachtofferhulp Nederland will contact you. Let us know if this is not what you want. We will record this. Slachtofferhulp Nederland may not pass on your details to others. Have the police found a suspect? If so, the suspect's lawyer will also receive your report. This enables the lawyer to prepare for the suspect's defence.

Police investigation

Once you have filed your police report, we will start investigating. We will let you know how the investigation is going. Sometimes we do that in person. In other cases, we will send you a letter or you can look up the information yourself on your personal page on politie.nl.

For offences such as burglaries and assaults, we will also let you know in the interim how the investigation is progressing. Do you have any questions about what happens to your case next? If so, call the police or the Public Prosecution Service.



In some situations, we do not investigate. Or we end the investigation without catching the perpetrator. Sometimes, for example, we have too little information and are therefore unable to find the offence suspect. We will let you know if we do not investigate or end the investigation and explain why. Do you disagree? In that case, you can send a letter to the public prosecutor or file a complaint with the Court of Appeal. The police notice tells you what to do in your particular case. Slachtofferhulp Nederland can help you with this.

5. The further criminal proceedings

We have found a suspect

Have we agreed to let you know how the investigation is going? If so, the Public Prosecution Service will contact you. They will tell you what will happen, whether there will be a court case and when, and what your rights are. You can also ask for information about your

police report, the investigation and any criminal case at the Slachtofferloket (victim desk) at any time. At www.politie.nl/slachtoffer you will find information on how to contact the Slachtofferloket. If the public prosecutor decides not to pursue your case, you will be notified. This notification explains why the case is being stopped. The letter also tells you what you can do if you disagree with this decision.

Do you want to talk to the perpetrator?

Some victims want to talk to the suspect or perpetrator. You can also send a letter. Slachtofferhulp Nederland can refer you to organisations that will help you get in touch with a suspect or perpetrator. They will ask the suspect or perpetrator if they want to be brought in contact with you. If so, you can be put in touch.

Have you suffered losses because of the offence?

- If so, contact your own insurer immediately. Your insurer will usually ask for your police report. Send a copy of your police report or the confirmation and keep the original.
- Have we caught a suspect? If so, the public prosecutor or the judge may order the offender to pay your damages. This could include compensation for your destroyed or stolen property, medical expenses or lost income. You will receive a claim form from the Public Prosecution Service for this purpose. Have you still not received the full amount eight months after the public prosecutor's or judge's decision? In that case, the CJIB (Central Judicial Collection Agency) can pay you some or all this amount in advance.
- Are you the victim of a serious violent offence? Or has someone killed your partner, your child or your father or mother? In that case, you may be eligible for a sum of money from the Schadefonds Geweldsmisdrijven. For more information, see www.schadefonds.nl or call the Schadefonds on 070 - 414 20 00.

We have recovered your property.

Have we recovered your stolen property? If so, it can usually be returned to you but this could take a long time.

- Is the perpetrator willing to return your property? If so, you can come and collect the items at the police station.
- Is the perpetrator unwilling to return your property? In that case, you

can make a request to the public prosecutor for its return. They will let you know when you can come and collect the items.

- Has your property been seized as evidence for the criminal case? If so, you have the right to know where your property is, whether it will be returned to you and when. Slachtofferhulp Nederland can help you to request the return of your property. You will find more information about seizure of items on the Public Prosecution Service's website.

What other rights do I have in criminal proceedings?

- You have the right ask to see documents from the criminal case file. You can make this request to the public prosecutor or judge. You can also ask the public prosecutor to add documents to the file of your case. A lawyer or Slachtofferhulp Nederland can help you with this.
- Are you a victim of a serious offence or a victim's next of kin? And will there be a criminal hearing? If so, you may speak in court on any subject you want to, such as the punishment you think the accused should receive or how the offence affects you. Sometimes you can also have a meeting with the public prosecutor before the hearing. A lawyer or Slachtofferhulp Nederland can help you prepare for this.
- If you wish, the public prosecutor will keep you informed about the leave, release or escape of the suspect or offender.

Who pays your costs in a court case?

Are you a witness in a criminal case? And will you incur costs as a result, such as travel expenses or loss of income? If so, you can claim these costs back from the State. You will find more information about this on the summons or invitation.

Important telephone numbers

Emergency 112

Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired? Use e-SMS (after one-time registration) or the 112NL app. For more information, go to politie.nl/contact

Police, not an emergency

0900 - 8844

Meld Misdaad Anoniem (Anonymous Offence Hotline)

0800 - 7000

Slachtofferhulp Nederland

0900 - 0101

www.slachtofferhulp.nl

More information about your rights as a victim?

www.politie.nl/slachtoffer

Slachtofferwijzer

www.slachtofferwijzer.nl

Public Prosecution Service

www.om.nl

Websites

www.politie.nl

www.politie.nl/slachtoffer

www.slachtofferhulp.nl

www.om.nl

www.slachtofferwijzer.nl

www.mijnslachtofferzaak.nl

www.schadefonds.nl

www.vooreenveiligthuis.nl

www.centrumseksueelgeweld.nl

www.perspectiefherstelbemiddeling.nl

www.meldmisdaadanoniem.nl

www.politiekeurmerk.nl

www.rechtsbijstand.nl

www.rechtspraak.nl

www.rijksoverheid.nl

www.juridischloket.nl

www.verlorenofgevonden.nl

Help and information

Emergency 112

Are you deaf, hard of hearing or do you have a speech impediment?

Use e-SMS (after a one-off registration) or the 112NL app.

For more information, go to politie.nl/contact

Non-emergency, but police 0900 - 8844

Information and reporting a crime 0900 - 8844

Police tip-off line 0800 - 6070

Report Crime Anonymously 0800 - 7000

politie.nl

