
Why Consider Victim Economic Security?

- The safety of victims of domestic/ dating violence, sexual assault and stalking is inextricably linked to their economic security.
- Protecting victims' economic security can make them better able – and more likely – to **cooperate with the investigation**.
- Victims are less likely to **return to an abuser or suffer additional attacks** if officers take steps to support their economic security.
- Economic evidence and arrests for economic crimes can improve an officer's ability to **hold offenders accountable** by increasing the success of court actions.
- Securing economic justice for victims can boost **future reporting**.

Investigation & Interview Questions:

- Does the offender currently have any of your property? (Phone, ID, credit cards, keys, etc.)
⇒ Retrieve prior to arrest/ booking.
- Did the offender destroy anything you need for immediate safety, to get to work/school, or to pay bills?
- Has the offender taken any of your money, including paychecks?
- What out-of-pocket costs have you incurred? (Bills, relocation, emergency contraception, security equipment, etc.)
- Does the offender have keys to your home, work or car?
- Do you have access to your bank account and other finances? Does the offender?

- Have you been intimidated or threatened financially?
- Are there any documents you need to collect and keep safe? (Visas, passport, social security card, etc.)
- Have you had to take security measures or change your routine?
⇒ What costs were associated?
⇒ Did it affect your housing, school or job?
- Does the offender know the passwords to your computers, accounts or phone?
- Has the offender forced you to commit any economic crimes?
- Is the offender in a position of power over your job, school, scholarship, or housing?
- Will anything prevent you from cooperating with the investigation or calling in the future?

Red Flags of Economic Issues at the Scene of the Crime:

- Is the victim hesitant to let officers in the home?
 - Is the victim hesitant to have the offender arrested?
 - Did the offender take or have the only car or house keys?
 - Does the offender have the only credit card or is the only one with access to shared bank accounts?
 - Does the victim have nowhere else to go?
 - Is the offender translating for a limited English proficiency victim?
 - Is the offender hesitant or unwilling to turn over a laptop or cell phone?
 - Did the victim delay reporting the assault because of school or work-based concerns?
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Economic-Related Evidence Collection:

- Photographs of injuries and property damage
- Lists and prices of damaged or stolen items
- Medical history and cost as a result of the violence (may be ongoing)
- Documentation of missed work or school as a result of the violence (may be ongoing)
- Financial documents showing costs of the violence (bills, bank statements, invoices, credit reports, receipts, canceled checks, etc.)
- Documentation of economic abuse or coerced economic crimes

Chargeable Economic-Related Crimes*:

- Assault and/or Battery
- Breaking and Entering
- Destruction of Property/ Property Damage/ Destruction of Evidence
- Electronic Surveillance or Cyber-stalking
- Forgery
- Fraud
- Harassment
- Identity Theft
- Reckless or Negligent Injury
- Strangulation
- Theft/Robbery/Larceny
- Trespassing
- Wiretapping
- Witness intimidation or threats

* Beyond Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Stalking. Statutes may vary depending on jurisdiction.

To access the full Law Enforcement Guide to Safety and Economic Security for Victims of Violence Against Women, see:
<http://www.wowonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/WOW-ESS-Law-Enforcement-Sector-Guide.pdf>



Law Enforcement Pocket Guide:

Checklists to Support a Victim's Economic Security

