

ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT PROPERTY CRIMES:

1. If you permit a thief or drug addict into your home, they WILL steal from you; you just may not discover it for a while. Even if they are your relative, you'd be wise to replace all of the valuables you have lying around with cheap imitations.
2. Even if THEY don't steal from you, they WILL VERY LIKELY tell somebody else what you own and then they will come and steal from you. After they leave your house you had better double check that all of your windows and doors are still locked. And go through your checkbook to make sure none of those checks in the middle or back are missing. If your good stuff does disappear, go visit the pawn shops and maybe you can buy it back cheap.
3. If you hear someone trying to break into your house, don't be quiet and act like you're not home, make noise and yell out that 911 call.
4. If you leave anything iron, copper, or steel outside your house these days, you might as well put it out with the trash and write "TAKE ME" on it. People CAN read that, but they CANNOT seem to read "DON'T TOUCH" or "KEEP OUT" or "NO TRESPASSING".
5. If your metal is stolen, go right down to one of the area recycling stations and you may get there in time to help the thieves unload it.
6. If someone asks you to take something to the recycling center for them because they don't have an ID, stop at the police station on the way and get booked – it will save time when the police are looking to arrest you later.
7. If you experience repeated break-ins or thefts, put up one of those inconspicuous motion activated cameras that you get from a hunting store, and call the police right away. Fingerprints, footprints and DNA don't stick around forever.
8. Check your bank statement every month, as soon as you get it. Somebody may be hoping that you don't. If you have elderly parents, check theirs' too.
9. If somebody gives you some thing to settle their debt – what can you do to make sure it is not stolen goods? Titles, sales receipts, verification from the prior owner are good. Or you can check with police to make sure that it isn't an item on their stolen property list. The phrase, "Too good to pass up", is a felon's fatal flaw.
10. You just can't legally ignore that the truck you are buying has no title, a broken window, Kentucky plates, broken steering column...oh yea, and no key.

11. Taking the time to get the right signature or document can be a hassle, but forgery is not a good shortcut. Remember, you don't have authority to sign someone else's name or change a signed document unless you have their signed and notarized power of attorney to do so. Don't let anyone sign for you, either.
12. Bouncing a check can happen, but you had better pay off the obligation just as soon as you learn that the check was dishonored. Otherwise fraud is presumed.
13. Cable bills are high, but legal bills are higher. Don't be connected for free.
14. If you lose your cool and intentionally damage someone's property (business property or > \$500), you still have the ability to find the owner, apologize & pay.

Applying these concepts in your life will help make our community a better place to live!!

-D. Andrew Wilson
Clark County Prosecutor