

VOLUME II, CHAPTER 44. RESPONDING TO
ROBBERIES

44. RESPONDING TO
ROBBERIES

(November 2007)

I. POLICY

Employees shall be particularly cautious when responding to the scene of a robbery due to the heightened threat of violence to the public or themselves. They shall work in concert with the Robbery Unit or the appropriate District Investigative Section to investigate the incident.

II. CHECKLIST (N/A) III.
DEFINITIONS

One-on-one identification: When an officer transports a victim or witness to location of the detained suspect for identification

Robbery: The felonious taking and carrying away of the personal property of another, from his person or in his presence, by violence or by putting him in fear.

IV. FORMS

- ③ Incident Report (PGC Form #3529)

V. PROCEDURES

1. Commercial, Residential,
& Courier Armed Robberies

Officers responding to the scene of robberies shall:

- ③ Cautiously respond, considering that suspects may still be on scene
- ③ Verify the incident
- ③ Broadcast a lookout
- ③ Secure the T/A or residence
- ③ Detain victims and witnesses and separate them from each other
- ③ Preserve evidence
- ③ Notify the Robbery Section
- ③ If directed by Robbery, interview victims or witnesses
- ③ Complete an Incident Report

If an immediate response by the Robbery Section is not possible, officers shall call the Robbery Section and provide a summary of the incident to an investigator. This notification shall be documented on the Incident Report.

*Taking Suspect to Scene for
Identification*

Officers should not take suspects back to the crime scene unless identification is to be made. If a suspect is apprehended, the officer may take the suspect to the crime scene for a one-on-one identification by a victim. This must be done within a reasonable amount of time, generally not exceeding one hour following the incident.

A one-on-one identification can provide investigative information, but the inherent suggestiveness of a one-on-one identification requires careful use of the following safeguards. When conducting a one-on-one, officers shall:

- ③ Determine and document, prior to the one-on-one, a description of the suspect
- ③ Caution the witness that the person he or she is looking at may or may not be the suspect

When multiple witnesses are involved:

- ⑨ Obtain and document a statement of certainty for both identification and nonidentifications of suspects

Include in the report the time and location of the one-on-one identification, noting the results by using the witness' own words regarding how certain he or she is.

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If officers have doubts regarding the reasonableness of returning a suspect to the crime scene, they should obtain a Polaroid photograph of the suspect for use in a photographic lineup.

Other Robberies

The appropriate District Investigative Section shall handle robberies not handled by CID.

VI. GOVERNING LEGISLATION & REFERENCE

This General Order addresses:

- ⑨ Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Standards:
12.1.4, 41.2.1, 41.2.5, 42.2.2, 55.1.3

Governing Legislation:

- ⑨ Maryland Public Safety Article 3-505
notated Code of MD CR§ 3-404

Reference:

- ⑨ For additional details concerning these investigations, *See: VOLUME II, CHAPTER 17, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS, Robbery*

- ⑨ If positive identification is obtained from one witness and there are other witnesses (consider using other identification procedures for remaining witnesses)

PRINCEGEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER MANUAL

ROBBERIES

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