



Criminal Investigation



CJA-241

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Property Crimes

- We will be reviewing the required reading of chapter 14, starting on page # 271.
- The student will be aware of:
 - Investigating crimes related to property
 - Steps for investigating burglary
 - Process of investigating theft crimes
 - Different types of frauds
 - Process of investigating fraud crimes



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Property Crimes

- Property crimes are predominantly perpetrated for the perpetrator's personal gain
 - Burglary
 - Entry
 - Into a structure (as defined by the appropriate penal code section)
 - With the intent to steal or commit another felony
 - No longer requires night time, a breaking, a dwelling house.

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

Property Crimes

- Enhancements
 - Armed suspect
 - Use of explosives
 - Inhabited dwelling
 - Occurred at night
- Possession of a lock picking tool
 - With intent to feloniously enter any building
 - Misd. in California (Call-ee-fone-yaaa)
- Burglary considered to be a crime of EASY opportunity

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

Property Crimes

- Burglary is usually a passive crime
 - Suspect seeks to avoid contact with victims.
 - More likely to successfully “get-away” with crime
 - No witnesses to provide ID in court
 - Requires police to investigate crime and determine suspect identity
 - Crime may not be discovered for an extended time
- The investigator must try to develop some insight into how the burglar selects a site for entry.
- If theft is not the primary intent, then assault is, usually rape or murder.

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

Property Crimes

- Professional Burglars
 - Have no other trade or means of income
 - Live off proceeds of burglary and larceny
- Amateur Burglars
 - Commit crime to secure money for drugs
 - Neighborhood youths
 - Will usually use pillowcase to carry loot away
 - Will take items they intend to use in some fashion
 - Not in location very long – portable wealth

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

Property Crimes

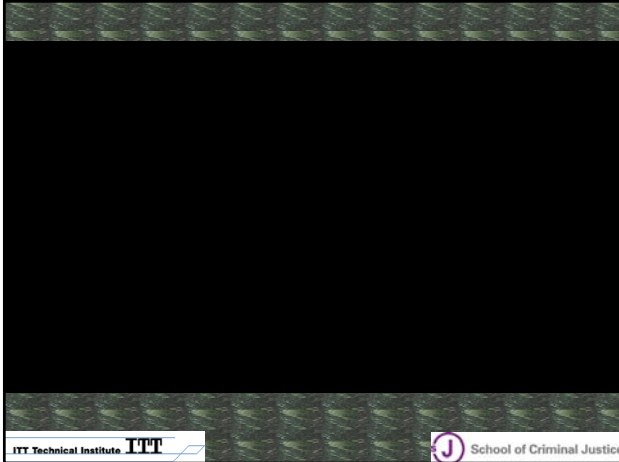
- Clues to be considered
 - Type of premises entered
 - Means of entry
 - Open door or window
 - Jimmy entry
 - Celluloid entry
 - Human fly (stepover)
 - Roof entry
 - Hide-in entry
 - Cut-in entry
 - Smash and grab
 - Key entry

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Property Crimes



- Type of property stolen
 - Will provide clues as to suspect's business sense
 - Also consider quantity and value of property
- Time that crime committed
- Presence of crime partners
- A professional takes items requiring a fence to sell for the suspect
 - Jewelry, furs, clothes, liquor, tobacco, meat, textiles, etc.

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Property Crimes

- Scene Investigation
 - Determine means of entry
 - To the location
 - To enclosed areas within the location
 - Tool marks are the best indicators
 - Determine what the suspect did while in the premises
 - Activities and items taken will identify the suspect
 - Determine means of egress
 - Substantial clues are often left at this location

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Property Crimes

- Burglars tend to utilize the same MO for all their illegal activities, this acts as a fingerprint to identify the suspect
- Informants usually offer little or no admissible prosecutorial evidence that a particular suspect committed the crime.
- The best information will often come from the person that received the stolen property. They usually reveal the identity of the thief.

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Property Crimes

- Thefts
 - Larceny
 - The unlawful taking of property without the use of force or violence
 - Household larceny – (items in or around house) the thief has a legal right to be in the residence
 - Personal larceny – taking by stealth
 - With contact by without force or fear
 - Without direct contact
 - Personal larceny with contact – taking by stealth
 - Directly from the victim without force or fear

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Property Crimes

- Most investigations of thefts reveal past thefts
- Time favors the criminal
 - The longer it takes for the alarm to be raised
 - The longer the investigation requires
- Victims often can not describe the stolen property
 - The officer must go over the items one at a time
 - What is it's purpose, what is it made of, is it a man's or lady's, current and original value, marks, color, size, amount, etc.

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Property Crimes

- Beat officers that cover a single beat possess a great deal of unwritten knowledge of the area and people.
- Other sources include: taxi drivers, waitresses, cocktail hostesses, bartenders, and tavern owners.
- Such as who is new in the area, who has money, who does not work, suspected fences, recently released felons, suspicious vehicles and persons associated with them.

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A blonde is watching the news with her husband.



The newscaster says 6 Brazilian men die in a skydiving accident.

The blonde starts crying to her husband, sobbing "That's horrible!"

Confused, he says, 'Yes dear, it is sad, but they were skydiving, and, there is that risk involved.'



After a few minutes, the blonde, still sobbing, says,

'How many is a Brazilian?'

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Property Crimes

- Auto Theft
 - Joyriding Juvenile – usually other riders, usually abandoned when they tire of it or it runs out of gas.
 - Transportation Thief – stolen for transportation then abandoned
 - Use-in-Crime Thief – used to commit crime then abandoned

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Property Crimes

- Insurance Fraud Swindler – vehicle parked in ghetto area to be stripped, or have it squished in junkyard, or burned.
- Strippers and Dismantlers – strippers attack a parked car and remove resalable items. Dismantlers steal the car and strip it at their facility.
- Professional Auto Thieves – Steal cars to be resold, (usually out of the country) or on a special order basis for a chop shop.

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Property Crimes

- Theft by employees
 - Shrinkage – loss of inventory from employee theft (cost passed on to customers)
 - Incidental – the employee consumes the product while at work, or takes items like pens and pencils
 - Situational – when the employee is presented with an opportunity, such as truck drivers who have extra product on the truck at the end of a run.
 - Continual theft – on-going constant acts of theft. Usually to support drugs, alcohol or gambling. >\$400 in any 12 month period is a felony.


Property Crimes

- When questioning employees, ask:
 - Do you know why I am talking to you?
 - Do you have any idea who may be responsible for the loss?
 - Would you eliminate anyone as a suspect?
- The innocent wants to assist and reduce the investigation to only the most likely
- The guilty wants to expand the investigation to make it difficult.

Property Crimes

- Fraud – a non-violent crime involving deceit, concealment, corruption, misrepresentation and abuse of trust to gain the property of another.
 - Frauds often silence the victim because they (victims) do not realize they were ripped off, or they are too embarrassed to publicly admit to being duped.


A One-Question IQ Test




This simple IQ Test will help you decide how you should spend the rest of your day.

QUESTION:
 There is a mute who wants to buy a toothbrush. By imitating the action of brushing his teeth, he successfully expresses himself to the salesclerk.
 Now if there is a blind man who wishes to buy a pair of sunglasses, how should he express himself to the clerk?

ANSWER:
 He opens his mouth and says, "I would like to buy a pair of sunglasses."




If you got this wrong - please pack up your things, turn off your computer and call it a day.

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Property Crimes

- Elements of fraud
 - Criminal intent (mens rea)
 - Wrongful objective (deprive owner of property)
 - Disguise or concealment of objective
 - Reliance on victim's cupidity (greed), carelessness of compassion.
 - They convince the victim to voluntarily give away ownership of money or property.

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Property Crimes

- Con Games
 - The victim's FALSE hopes are fostered by assurances that the risks are minimal
 - Pigeon Drop – a person finds a sum of money and asks the "pigeon" to hold it for them, but the victim must show that they have matching funds, "so they can be trusted". The suspects then switch the real money for fake without the victim realizing it.
 - Charity switch is similar

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Property Crimes

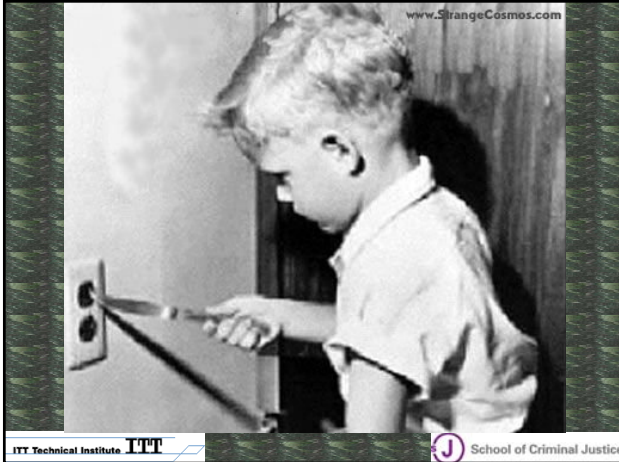
- Carnival Bunco – Rigged carnival games, set up so that a win is not possible (trick balls, weighted dolls, underinflated balloons, oversized marbles, etc.
- Bank examiner fraud – depends upon people's desire to be a "secret agent" for the police. After withdrawing a large sum of cash at the request of the "bank", a security person from the bank comes to the victims house and takes the deposit and provides a bogus deposit slip for the money.

Property Crimes

- Fraudulent checks
- Credit card fraud
- Consumer and business frauds
 - Bait and switch – advertised merchandise does not exist, or is bad mouthed by sales personnel.
 - Repair fraud – overcharge for services, charge for services not performed or parts not replaced, or repairs not discussed with customer.
 - Misrepresentation – fail to provide facts about performance, warranties, credit charges or hidden costs.

Property Crimes

- Securities frauds
- Land-sales frauds
- Advance-fee frauds
- Home-improvement frauds
- Bankruptcy frauds
- Insurance frauds
- Embezzlement
 - Conversion of another's property to own uses.
- ATM frauds
- Identity thief
- Computer fraud



Homework

- Read chapters 15&16, starting on page # 305.
- Be prepared to discuss Special investigations concerning illegal drugs, vice and terrorism

