



How can I help police obtain a successful prosecution?

After you report a crime, police will investigate and collect available evidence (like statements or physical evidence such as fingerprints, property or CCTV recordings).

As a result of the investigation, police may locate the person we suspect committed the crime (called the 'accused') and start the process to take the person(s) to court.

Police will prepare the case (a summary of the evidence from the investigation) which will be given to a prosecutor (a government representative responsible for presenting the police case to the court).

The prosecutor will look at the evidence and decide if it is strong enough to prove that the accused is guilty. They must prove, beyond reasonable doubt, that the person committed the crime they are charged with.

'Beyond reasonable doubt' means that, based on the evidence, there is no other reasonable explanation other than the accused is guilty.

If the prosecutor decides there is enough evidence to go to court, the first court date will be set. Please be aware that the investigation, prosecution and court process can take a long time – sometimes years before there is an outcome.

Identification of the accused

For a successful prosecution we need to prove (beyond reasonable doubt) that the accused committed the crime you reported.

How you can help us identify the accused:

- CCTV recordings that show actions or clothing are valuable to our investigation, but to identify a person we need a clear facial image.
- Ensure your home or business CCTV provides good quality pictures.
- Place a camera at head height (about 1.8m high) to record the people's faces.
- Save recordings of incidents you report to police (eg to USB/disc/hard-drive).
- If you know the accused by name, tell police how you know them.

Identification of property

For a successful prosecution we need to prove (beyond reasonable doubt) that property found on the accused was your property.

How you can help us identify your property:

- Keep details of your property (eg make, model, serial number); take a photograph of the item and another of the model/serial number and save securely.
- Mark property items to help identify them (engrave, or use a permanent or UV pen). Use your driver's licence number beginning with the letter 'S' for South Australia e.g. S123456.

