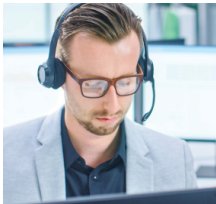### AFTER THE CRIME

If you discover you are the victim of a vehicle theft, please contact law enforcement immediately to file a stolen-vehicle report. Be prepared to provide the make, model, color, VIN number and license plate number of your vehicle to law enforcement.

After you file a police report, contact your insurance company within 24 hours and provide them with the incident report number.

RESOURCES

For more information on vehicle theft and how to prevent it, visit these websites:

⇒ https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/vehicle-theft-prevention.

⇒ https://www.iii.org/fact-statistic/facts-statistics-auto-theft

⇒ https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/Crime-Data/Motor-Vehicle-Theft

⇒ https://www.flhsmv.gov/safety-center/consumer-education/vehicle-theft-prevention/

LOCK IT OR LOSE IT

REMOVE your valuables LOCK your vehicles

CONTACT US:

9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES

352-955-1818 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES

ACSO Important Phone Numbers

ACSO Main Administration	352.367.4000
Crime Prevention Unit	352.374.1800
Crime Stoppers & Gun Bounty	352.372.7867
Dept. of the Jail	352.491.4444
Evidence Section	352.367-4076
Human Resources	352.367.4040
Narcotics Tip Line	352.374.1849
Patrol	352.367.4101
Public Information	352.367.4050
Property Unit	352.367.4078
Records Bureau	352.367.4006
Victim Advocate Unit	352.367.4193

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Sheriff Chad D. Scott

P.O. Box 5489, Gainesville, FL 32627
2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL 32641
https://www.acso.us

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STATISTICS

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), more than 1 million vehicles were stolen in 2023. That equates to one vehicle every 32 seconds! Only 56.4% of all stolen vehicles are recovered and even then, about 30% of those recovered are damaged. The overall cost to American consumers in 2022 was $8 billion.

Florida is the third leading state for motor vehicle thefts, following Texas (#2), and California (#1).

TARGETS

While passenger cars account for more than half of all vehicle thefts, thieves will target all types of vehicles, including cars, trucks, SUVs, vans, motorcycles, and even scooters. The top 10 targets for vehicle thefts in Florida are (in no particular order):

1. Ford full-sized pickup
2. Honda Civic
3. Chevrolet full-sized pickup
4. Honda Accord
5. Toyota Camry
6. Nissan Altima
7. Toyota Corolla
8. Dodge Charger
9. Hyundai Sonata
10. Honda CR-V

Why are there not more high-end vehicles on the list, like BMWs and Jaguars? For one, they are more likely to be equipped with more sophisticated anti-theft devices, such as Lo-Jack. Car thieves look for vehicles with parts that are in high demand on the black market.

Even if the thief does not take the whole vehicle, they can and will happily cannibalize major components, including doors, engines, transmissions, catalytic converters, air bags, radios, GPS units or anything else of value they find inside your car.

Julie Ellis.Flickr

While half of all auto thefts result because a driver left a door or window open, or left a key or electronic key fob in the vehicle, thieves do have other methods. They can be as low tech as breaking a window and hotwiring the vehicle to acquiring a smart key. Thieves have also used identity theft to steal vehicles by using your name to obtain a loan for a new vehicle.

PREVENTION

Like most crimes, vehicle theft is opportunity-based. To prevent vehicle theft, deny would-be thieves an easy opportunity to steal your ride. Every single time you park, follow these tips:

⇒ Do not leave your keys or electronic key fobs in the car for the thieves to find and use.

⇒ Close and lock all windows and doors.
⇒ Keep the trunk or hatchback locked.
⇒ Park in well-lit areas.
⇒ Never leave valuables in your car, especially in a visible location. This includes purses, money, cell phones, tablets, laptops, or anything else that is either valuable or may indicate to a thief that there are valuables hidden in the vehicle (i.e. charging cords.)