

File a criminal complaint

If you have become aware of a criminal act, regardless of whether you yourself were harmed or witnessed a crime, you can file a report with the police. In doing so, you inform the law enforcement authorities (police and public prosecutor's office) about the event and the course of events.

Competent Department

- [Polizei Bremen](#)

Basic information

You can file a criminal complaint whether you are injured, can witness a crime, or are an uninvolved party. Fast processing is encouraged by selecting the state in which the event occurred. You can file a report informally, by phone, online and at the police station, either anonymously or by providing your contact information. The online report is to be considered an additional offer.

The criminal complaint focuses on the notification of a criminal offense. A distinction is made between different groups of offenses.

Please note that criminal offenses from the following offense groups can be reported online: Theft/Property Crime and Property Damage. To promote the fastest possible processing, please select an appropriate offense.

When you file a report, you are a witness in the criminal proceedings. Regardless of the report you file online, it may be necessary to summon you to the police station responsible for this as part of the further processing of this, for example, in order to be able to conduct a witness interview with you in person.

Furthermore, it is possible to attach photos, receipts or documents to the report as electronic attachments. This option should be used in particular to send evidence (purchase receipts, receipts or pictures of stolen items, damaged items or screenshots of screen contents) to the police with the report.

Requirements

Any person who has knowledge of a crime can file a complaint. You do not have to meet any specific requirements.

What documents do I need?

- Proof of identification (photo ID: identity card, passport, etc.)

Proof of identity is mandatory for filing a criminal complaint.

By e.g.: Identity card, passport, other form of photo ID with address, etc.

- Invoices, proof of ownership for stolen items, equipment or serial number.
 - Invoices
 - Proof of ownership
 - Equipment numbers
 - Serial numbers
- Filled out criminal complaint

Application available for download under "Further information" - "Forms".

Procedure

A report can be made or submitted online, in writing, by telephone or verbally.

If you wish to submit the advertisement online:

- The online submission of an advertisement takes place in several steps.
- You can file a criminal complaint via the Internet portal. This can involve various offenses.
- You access the Internet portal via a central URL. The federal state responsible for processing is selected via the location of the incident. After selecting the appropriate offense-oriented form for filing a report, you can provide basic information about yourself (e.g. personal details, cell phone number, email address). You can then enter data on the crime scene, the time of the crime, the perpetrator and the event itself. The recording is accompanied by legal instructions (witness and accused person instructions as well as the requirement to file a criminal complaint and the notice of discontinuation).
- It is possible to submit documents such as proof of purchase, receipts and/or images such as screenshots, images of damage or stolen items with the report.
- Once the report has been submitted and accepted, you will receive an e-mail with a case number and the contact details of the Bremen police.
- The relevant police department will accept the report and check it. If you report a criminal offense that was committed outside Germany or in another federal state, the prosecuting authority will forward the report to the competent authority.
- Only if there are no grounds for investigation will the investigation be closed by the public prosecutor's office. The chances of success vary depending on the type of offense. Basically, the more information you provide, the higher the chances of the police finding the perpetrator.

- Anyone who knowingly and falsely suspects a person is committing a criminal offense. The law provides for a fine or a prison sentence of up to five years.

If you wish to make your report in person on site:

- You can report a crime in person at the following locations during the following opening hours:
 - Vegesack police station
Kirchheide 51
28757 Bremen
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday and Saturday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Bremen Police Headquarters
In der Vahr 76
28329 Bremen
Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - City center police station (next to the main train station)
Beim Handelsmuseum 1
28195 Bremen
Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- To avoid waiting times, we recommend that you make an appointment online in advance via the online appointment system

If you wish to place your advertisement by telephone:

- You can reach the telephone ad intake service on 0421 362-12700.
 - Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Saturday and Sunday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Legal bases

- [§ 158 Strafprozeßordnung \(StPO\)](#)

More information

- If you file a criminal complaint, you are basically a witness in the criminal proceedings. It may be necessary to summon you to the police station responsible for this as part of the further processing of your complaint, for example, in order to be able to conduct a witness interview with you personally.
- Anyone who has knowledge of a criminal act but does not report it may be liable to prosecution. No special formal requirements apply. Caution is advised if the crime is suspected. Defamation and false suspicion are punishable by law
- in this case, the person who makes the report must expect legal action against him or herself. In the case of crimes such as murder, robbery, war crimes and high treason, there is a duty to report.
- A criminal complaint cannot be withdrawn. You should therefore think carefully about whether you want to file a criminal complaint. According to the principle of legality, the authorities are then obliged to investigate.

What deadlines must be paid attention to?

There is no time limit to be observed. However, you should observe the respective statute of limitations, because criminal offenses usually become time-barred after a certain period of time.

How long does it take to process

After receipt of the online notification, you will receive an email confirmation with a process number. The processing time depends on various factors. It is not possible to set a time limit.

What are the costs?

gebührenfrei