

SNOHOMISH COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE INVESTIGATIVE CHECKLIST

THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE

RCW 9A.56.065

ELEMENTS

1. The suspect obtained control over a motor vehicle that belonged to another;

AND

2. the suspect did so by

a) wrongfully obtaining or exerting unauthorized control over the motor vehicle;

OR

b) color or aid of deception;

OR

c) appropriating the lost or misdelivered motor vehicle;

AND

3. the suspect intended to deprive the rightful owner of the motor vehicle.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

[] 1. Provide initial stolen report, even if report is from another agency.

[] 2. Victim's statement should describe the last time the motor vehicle was seen by victim; what was inside the vehicle; whether the motor vehicle was locked and whether the keys were in the vehicle; the fact that no one had permission to take the motor vehicle; and any potential suspects.

[] 3. Suspect's statement, if possible, should include whether suspect admits taking the motor vehicle or admits only possessing the stolen motor vehicle; whether suspect knew victim; and if suspect claims ownership/permission to use the vehicle, the basis for that claim.

[] 4. If suspect provides an innocent explanation for possession of the vehicle, follow up with additional questions to obtain specific information that can be verified as true or proven false. For example, if "Joe" loaned the vehicle to suspect, what is Joe's full name and address, where does Joe live, where was suspect when Joe loaned him the car – can suspect direct you to that location. If suspect's explanation does not jive with condition and contents of vehicle, confront suspect with that.

[] 5. If sales receipts or other documents are seized from the vehicle, photocopy any that help establish time frame that suspect had control of the vehicle, and note their location in the vehicle.

[] 6. If stolen vehicle recovered, provide property recovery report, even if report is from another agency.

[] 7. Photograph motor vehicle at location where found, if possible, as well as the interior of the vehicle to show punched ignition, suspect's belongings in the vehicle, drug paraphernalia in the

vehicle, stolen mail in the vehicle, driver's seat adjusted to suspect's size, etc. Photograph motor vehicle before returning it to owner.

- [] 8. If possible, dust for fingerprints within the vehicle, especially if suspect is claiming he/she was never in the vehicle.