

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE INVESTIGATIVE CHECKLIST**

**TAKING MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT PERMISSION – 1st DEGREE  
RCW 9A.56.070**

**ELEMENTS**

1. The suspect intentionally took or drove away a motor vehicle belonging to another;

AND

2. did so without the permission of the owner or person entitled to possession;

AND

3. a) altered the motor vehicle for the purpose of changing its appearance or primary identification, including obscuring, removing, or changing the manufacturer's serial number or the vehicle identification number plates;

OR

b) removed, or participated in the removal of, parts from the motor vehicle with the intent to sell the parts;

OR

c) exported, or attempted to export, the motor vehicle across state lines or out of the United States for profit;

OR

d) intended to sell the motor vehicle;

OR

e) was engaged in a conspiracy, AND

i) the central object of the conspiratorial agreement was the theft of motor vehicles for sale to others for profit, OR

ii) solicited a juvenile to participate in the theft of a 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, whether the suspect admits knowing the vehicle

is stolen, whether the suspect admits participating in the trafficking of the stolen motor vehicle; and whether suspect knew victim.

- [ ] 4. If suspect provides an innocent explanation for possession of the vehicle, or denies knowledge that the vehicle is stolen, follow up with additional questions to obtain specific information that can be verified as true or proven false. For example, if "Joe" told suspect the vehicle belonged to Joe and gave suspect permission to use the vehicle, 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, altered VIN, parts removed, 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.