



CITY OF PUNTA GORDA

A Florida Accredited **EXCELSIOR AGENCY**

# POLICE

1410 Tamiami Trail  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941-639-4111  
[www.puntagordapolice.com](http://www.puntagordapolice.com)

## OPERATION IDENTIFICATION



The Punta Gorda Police Department's Operation Identification is a program designed to discourage burglary and theft of valuables. It also provides a way for you to easily identify stolen property and increases law enforcement's chances of recovery and conviction.

## **What is Operation Identification?**

Most burglars steal valuables for resale. Begin by completing a home inventory form. Fill out all of the information and keep it in a safe place. In case any of the items are lost or stolen this allows you to have a quick reference as to their specifications.

Then, conspicuously mark each item of personal property with a unique identifier, preferably your driver's license number. This accomplishes the following:

- Marked property makes stolen goods difficult to sell.
- Marking property contributes to a higher rate of conviction for those apprehended with it in their possession.
- Marked property makes it easier for law enforcement officials to return it to the rightful owner if it is stolen or lost. The system requires a small amount of time and effort on your part, but the property identification and inventory will protect you and your property. The purpose of the inventory record is to give law enforcement officials essential information if you are victimized.

## **What to Mark and How to Mark It**

For hard objects such as computers, bicycles, radios, stereos, televisions, cameras, watches, sporting goods, and appliances use an engraving tool to mark your identification on a conspicuous permanent part of the item. Make sure the mark is legible.

For items that cannot be marked such as jewelry, musical instruments, antiques, etc., place the object against a plain background and take several color photographs from different angles. Include a ruler with the picture for scale. Label the pictures and keep them with this form.

For soft or porous items such as leather, fiberboard, or cloth use a contrasting permanent marker.

## **Choose an Identification Number**

Do not use your Social Security Number. Develop your own unique number for each item (such as your initials followed by a number). If the item is ever stolen it will have a unique number for entry into the National Crime Information System. Make sure all identifying marks and numbers are included on your inventory form.

## **Need Assistance?**

To schedule a time to have the Punta Gorda Police Department assist you in any step in the process, please contact our Community Services Lieutenant Katie Heck at [kheck@pgorda.us](mailto:kheck@pgorda.us).

