

Car Stolen or Stolen Property

To activate a criminal investigation, you immediately need to contact the District Attorney/Ministerio Publico (MP) and file a denuncia (formal complaint) at Zaragoza 334 (between Morelos and Lopez Cotilla), Chapala, 765-2415. You need to provide ID photo (passport, or driver's license). Take along a translator, if you do not speak Spanish. At the Attorney/Ministerio Publico (MP) office in Chapala you will be requested to show original documents and provide 5 photocopies of the relevant documents. Arrive prepared with documents and a lengthy ordeal.

For a stolen car you need to show documentation proving ownership. From your files, show photos of your car to assist investigation. Show Aduana for foreign plated car (customs importation permit given at border). Even though your car was stolen, you need to pay a "tax" on the car that you cannot account for. The tax has to be paid before you can clear the stolen car from the Mexican computers and, thus, be allowed to bring another car into Mexico.

Car is destroyed in a wreck, or car not worth repairing:
Go to the local Aduana office for the forms and instructions.

For stolen goods you need to:
Show receipts or provide a least two witnesses who can accredit the loss. From your files, bring copies of pictures of each side of each room in your house, and your jewelry to help prove ownership and to assist in an investigation of the stolen property. After filing the complaint, ask what else you need to do and ask when and what you should expect in a follow-up.

Police Investigadora---State Detectives, La Cristiania 17 Morelos, Chapala, 765-2667/
Investigative arm of Ministerio Publico (District Attorney), execution of arrest and search warrants.

Juzgado Criminal—Penal Court, Juarez 514 second floor, Chapala, 765-2988. Prosecution and judgment of cases forwarded by District Attorney.

State Police: 01-333-837-6000 Based in Guadalajara under Procuraduria general de Justicia (State Attorney General). Investigation and enforcement of state criminal codes, occasional backup for support of local police.

Crime Hotline/Interpol Mexico City 01-555-346-2541

Federal Authorities:

Policia Federal Preventiva: 01-333-639-5085 Patrols federal highways and crime prevention.

Agencia Federal de Investigacion: Investigation of federal offenses (Mexico's FBI).

Ministerio Publico Federal: in Ocotlan , 01-392-922-0021 Process criminal complaints for federal offenses, including drug and weapons violations.