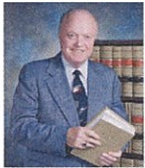


## IF ALL ELSE FAILS...

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR HOME IS BURGLARIZED

**I**mmediately call the police and, if possible, leave the house. Don't wait a few hours or until the next day, call right away! Waiting reduces the chance to recover your valuables. Do not move around the house and do not touch anything. Fingerprints and other important evidence might be disturbed. Your cooperation will be very helpful.



### SENATOR FARLEY'S OFFICES

**Albany Office:**  
Room 412 LOB  
Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-2181

**District Offices:**  
33-41 East Main St.  
Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 762-3733

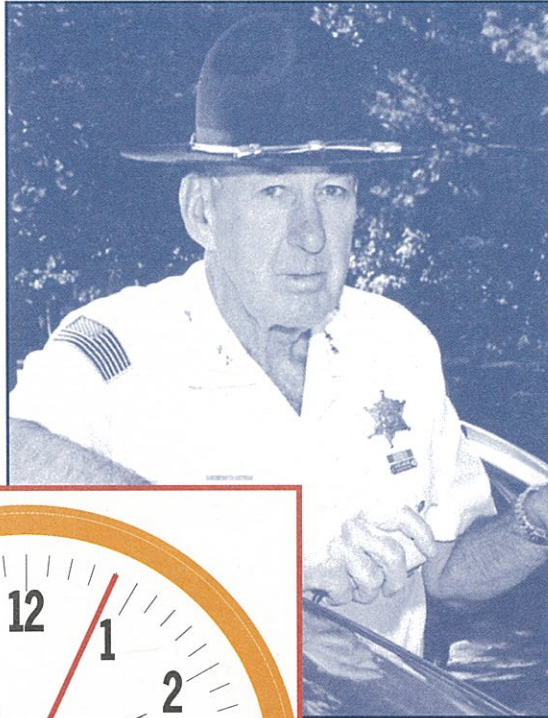
2430 Riverfront Center  
Amsterdam, NY 12010  
(518) 843-2188

[www.senatorfarley.com](http://www.senatorfarley.com)



This brochure was produced with the cooperation of The New York State Sheriffs' Association.

## CAN YOUR HOME PASS THE SHERIFF'S



## 4 MINUTE TEST?

Compliments of  
**SENATOR HUGH T. FARLEY**  
44th Senate District

**T**his test has only one question. However, the wrong answer can cost you and your family thousands of dollars, hours of frustration and the loss of precious family treasures.

## CAN A BURGLAR BREAK INTO YOUR HOME WITHIN 4 FOUR MINUTES?

Did you answer no? If so, congratulations! When a home can't be entered in four minutes, the burglar often will go away. However, if your residence can be easily entered you could become one of over 5,000 American families whose homes will be burglarized within the next 24 hours. Seventeen burglaries will take place while you are reading this brochure.

Unfortunately, most American homes don't pass the four minute test. If yours can't, don't despair. This brochure contains several easy, inexpensive ways to help secure your home and property from burglars. Also included are tips on what to do if your home is burglarized and ideas to improve the recovery of stolen property.

Keep a burglar out of your home for four minutes and the next burglary you hear about will probably be somebody else's.



0:00

GIVE YOUR HOME THE **4** MINUTE TEST. THE CLOCK STARTS NOW!

### OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

Burglars often avoid homes where they can be easily observed. Take a stroll around your house and look for good hiding places. Shrubbery next to basement windows and large branches near windows should be trimmed. Install a low wattage lighting system under the eaves. An inexpensive timer will automatically illuminate the shadows and hiding places. If you have a dog or an alarm system, put up signs that say so.

### IF YOU ARE AWAY

When away from home, it is important to give your home a lived-in look. Bulging mailboxes, closed drapes, dry uncut lawns and unplowed driveways say nobody's home. That's why if you are going away it is advisable to:

- ✓ leave your car in the driveway, or have a neighbor park there. This not only gives the appearance of an occupied house, but prevents burglars from backing in a van and loading your possessions;
- ✓ ask a neighbor to use your garbage cans;
- ✓ leave drapes and shades open;
- ✓ have someone take care of your lawn or shovel your driveway;
- ✓ temporarily cancel your newspaper delivery;
- ✓ fill out a mail hold form (available from your local post office or on the Internet at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)) or have a neighbor pick up your mail; and
- ✓ ask the Sheriff or another law enforcement officer to drive by periodically and check your property.



## SECURE PATIO & GARAGE DOORS

1:00

For optimum security, follow the guidelines listed below.

- ✓ Place a steel bar in your sliding glass patio door channel and a wooden wedge secured by two or three screws in the overhead track.
- ✓ Keep the garage door closed and locked.
- ✓ If away for an extended period, disconnect electric doors (if practical).
- ✓ Install padlocks on garage door tracks.



## INSTALL SOLID DOORS & LOCKS

2:00

Install secure doors as a major burglary deterrent, as well as:

- ✓ install high quality solid core doors;
- ✓ upgrade your locks;
- ✓ install a dead bolt lock with a one-inch bolt; and
- ✓ insist on steel locks with a cylinder guard.



## PLAN INTERIOR LIGHTING

3:00

Proper use of interior lighting can fool a burglar into thinking your house is occupied when empty or someone is awake when everyone is asleep. Listed below are a few tips to plan your interior lighting.

- ✓ Install electric timers.
- ✓ Plug two or three lamps in different rooms into electric timers.
- ✓ Adjust the timers so lights turn on and off in different rooms at different times.
- ✓ If possible, when away from home, plug a timer into a television or radio.



## LOCK ALL

4:00

### WINDOWS

The noise and possible injury from broken glass will keep most burglars from breaking your windows. However, windows can be jimmied. Take these simple precautions:

- ✓ install key latches to lock sash windows; and
- ✓ if you own double sash windows, drill a small hole in both sashes, place a solid pin or nail into the hole to prevent the window from being opened.



## FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTION...

### Identify your valuables

- ✓ Take an inventory.
- ✓ List valuable items and current condition and, if possible, dates of purchase and original prices.

✓ Use a camera (standard or VCR) to visually record your valuables.

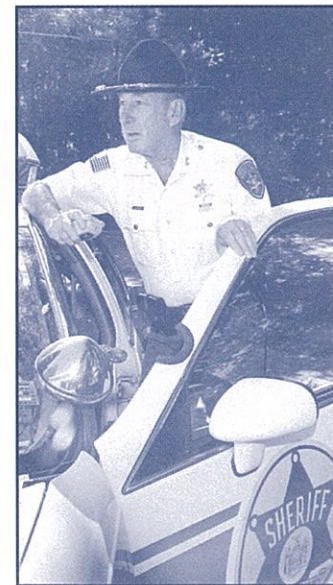
✓ Record serial numbers of major appliances and electronic equipment.

✓ Store the inventory, pictures or videotape in a safety deposit box.

✓ Give a copy to your insurance agent. If you have

a loss, proof of value can be established and an accurate claim can be filed.

**Do not keep cash in your home!** Currency cannot be traced and insurance companies will not pay on cash claims.



## ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



The Neighborhood Watch Program is an organized effort by concerned residents to look out for each other's safety and help law enforcement officers protect their neighborhood against criminals.

If there is no Neighborhood Watch in your area, consider organizing one. Call your local law enforcement agency for all the information and help you need to establish a successful Neighborhood Watch Program. You can also visit the Neighborhood Watch Program on the Internet at: [www.usaonwatch.org](http://www.usaonwatch.org).

Whatever the circumstance, whenever you notice unusual occurrences, call the police. They will welcome your calls day or night.