

# DIAL 9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCY

If you witness a crime or are a victim of crime call 911



## HOW TO REPORT A CRIME

For assaults, robberies and any kind of emergency call 9-1-1. When the police arrive ask to file a Denuncia. A Denuncia is a formal complaint that contains detailed information of a crime, and is the method by which incidents are investigated by the authorities.

*If a Denuncia is not filed the incident is not registered anywhere and both you and our community will not receive the support we desperately need.*

**If you are reporting an incident that has already taken place go to visit the OIJ to file the denuncia.**

\* Without a Denuncia, assailants and thieves will not be prosecuted and you stand little chance of recovering what was stolen or making a successful insurance claim.

\* If there is no official record of what has been stolen, the police cannot detain someone, even if they suspect the person has the stolen goods in his possession.

\* Police services and resources are allocated by crime report statistics. If there are no Denuncias we do not get the resources we need.

\* The more Denuncias a suspect has against him or her, the more likely the courts will prosecute.

## PLEASE NOTE:

- If you want your Denuncia to be confidential, it is important to mention it to the officer or agent at the beginning of your interview.
- Provide as much detailed information about the stolen items as possible; make, model, color, serial number, picture if you have. Try to have a list prepared ahead of time.
- If your items have been engraved with your own personal identification, it is important to mention this to the agent.
- Do not touch or move anything at the crime scene before the OIJ arrives. They will want to review the evidence at the scene and may record fingerprints.
- Ensure that the agent of the OIJ, or the police gives you a copy of your Denuncia once it has been completed.

**WHERE TO GO ? See next page....**



*Cámara de Turismo y Comercio de Costa Ballena (CACOBA)  
Segundo piso oficina 11, edificio Perla del Pacifico, Uvita de Osa, 2743-8180*

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If you witness a crime or are a victim of crime call 911

## WHERE TO GO

*If the matter is urgent call 9-1-1 to connect with medical, ambulance, police and fire services.*

To file a Denuncia go directly to the Office of the OIJ in Cortés (pronounced “oh-ee-hota”). The Organismo de Investigación Judicial is located across the street from the Cortés Hospital and open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. If you do not have transportation ask a friend or neighbor and try to take a Spanish-speaking person with you. *OIJ in Cortés - 2786-8549 or 2786-8649*

In some cases police officers (Fuerza Publica) can take the report but it is not their function. If the matter is urgent call 911 and then try either the Dominical or Uvita police stations, which are open 24 hours. Fuerza Pública in Uvita - 2743-8538, Dominical 2787-0011

Another option is to contact the Tourist Police, who are able to converse in basic English. Tourist Police 2787 0011 / 8342 0883

## IMPORTANT TO KNOW

Police services in Costa Rica are chronically underfunded and the Costa Ballena is a small part of a very large region. Violent crime in other parts of the country take precedent and as a result theft, robberies and minor assaults receive much less attention than most of us are comfortable with. Compounding the issue is the fact that courts are backed up and so most minor offenders are back on the street almost immediately. Note however that if there are enough Denuncia’s against a person they are much more likely to be locked up so ALWAYS file a denuncia when an incident occurs.

Many people are not aware there are many kinds of police. ‘Transito’ is traffic and highway patrol, OIJ investigates crime after the fact, GAO are special operations, Fuerza Publica are citizen security, crime prevention and response, Tourist Police assist travelers and Municipal Police enforce bylaws. Although Fuerza Publica has stations in the area they are not required to take the details of a Denuncia, which is the domain of the OIJ. Fuerza Publica is required by law to use the flashing lights on their cars at all times and do not generally set up ‘stings’ unless part of a larger operation.

## IF YOU WITNESS A CRIME

**Call 9-1-1** and then the local police.

To file a report call the OIJ: 2786-8549 / 2786-8649

**Fuerza Publica:** Dominical 2787-0011, Uvita 2743 8538, Ojochal 2786 5661

Cortez 2788 8030/ English: 2787-0406

**Tourist Police** 2787 0011 / 8342 0883, 24 Hour Police Line 8432 2638



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