Retrieving Property from Seattle Police
A guide from Dismantle – Smith Law, LLC

This document is not legal advice. If you need more assistance, you can contact us at action@thesmithlaw.com.

This resource is only intended to provide technical assistance in retrieving property seized by the Seattle Police Department. By retrieving this property, you are claiming ownership of it. This could have criminal consequences. **You should consult an attorney before speaking to the police.**

1) Prepare Information

You will need the following information when contacting SPD:

- **Case Number** (2020-XXX XXX)
  - If you do not know your case number, you may be able to find it on this website by searching your name in the Defendant Search:
    - https://web6.seattle.gov/courts/ECFPortal/Default.aspx

  - You can also ask the staff member to search your name
- **Legal Name --** or the name you gave officers upon intake
- **List of Items Seized**

2) Contact Seattle Police Department – Evidence Unit

Evidence Unit Front Desk (206) 684-8730

You can ask the staff if your property is available to be picked up.

The staff will ask for:

- Case number
- Legal name
- Items

Property is held for **safekeeping** or held for investigation as **evidence**. All property is logged with the Evidence Unit. Officers assigned to the case must authorize release of property before it can be retrieved by its owner.

If the property is **not available for release**, you can ask whether the case has been assigned to an officer. Personnel can give the contact information of assigned officers, if asked. In order to contact an officer, you will need either their first and last name, or their badge number.

This phone number was established in October 2020: (206) 684-4566

- Leave a voicemail with case number, name, and call back number
- It is not clear whether this number is actively monitored

3) Contact Assigned Officers

Options for contacting the officer assigned to your case number:

- Phone
    - Evidence Unit personnel may provide a phone number for the officer, or their unit
    - The main unit phone can transfer you to the officer's desk
        - Keep in mind that officers have varying shifts
        - Be sure to include your name and the case number if you leave a message
- Email
    - Officers can be reached at the following email addresses:
        - First.Last@seattle.gov
        - spdXXXX[badge number]@seattle.gov

The following resources contain some information about SPD officers and how to contact them:

- SPD Staff Roster 2016
- SPD Case Assignment Matrix

4) Vehicles

The Evidence Unit does not manage vehicles. You can still contact the Evidence Unit to determine which officer is assigned to your case. They will likely refer you to:

Auto Records (206) 684-5444; (206) 684-5511

The assigned officer must authorize release of the vehicle and send that authorization to Auto Records. Auto Records then notifies Lincoln Towing of the release. You can confirm that your vehicle is ready to be picked up by calling Lincoln:

Lincoln Towing (206) 834-2800

They will ask for the license plate number or last 6 digits of VIN. You may also be able to find your vehicle on seattleimpound.com

If you want to challenge the impound, be mindful that you must do so within the time period. For more information, visit: [Towing Complaints](#); [Washington Law Help -- Vehicle Retrieval](#)

5) Retrieving Your Property

If the assigned officer authorizes release of your belongings, you will retrieve them from the Evidence Unit, located at: **730 S Stacy Building C, Seattle, WA**. You can call to confirm that your items are ready for pick-up.

The Evidence Unit is only open to the public on **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**. This is when individuals are allowed to pick up property.

Staff will ask for a photo ID. You can also have them search your name.

The state can retain evidence as long as it is needed for an investigation. If you experience difficulty in retrieving your property, you should contact an attorney.