

Spoken English

How to file a police complaint for a loss of car, purse, and passport?

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You are in Taiwan for a business meet. On Friday, you are walking down the road with your handbag, when suddenly a thief snatches it and flees. Initially, panic sets in and you run after the thief but to no avail. You decide to file a police complaint. However, since, you are in a foreign country; you have no idea about the procedure to file a police. In such cases, it is beneficial to be [fluent in English](#) as it is the preferred common global language. Be it loss of car, purse or any other situation, your [English conversational skills](#) will help you sail through the difficult times with confidence. Below are a few things to keep in mind while filing a police complaint.



Things To Remember When Filing A Complaint At The Police Station:

1. Visit the embassy site

For loss of a car or a purse, you do not need to visit the embassy site and can directly go to the police station. However, loss of a passport is a very serious matter as it is an identification document and is prone to be misused at the wrong hands. It is for this reason that embassies have a procedure listed on their websites based on different locations. Ensure that you read and understand the full procedure.

2. Apply for a replacement

Once you are sure the passport cannot be found anywhere, start the procedure for applying for a replacement passport. This is because it can take many weeks for a new passport to be issued and can lead to unnecessary delays. Usually, the procedure to apply for a replacement is listed on the embassy website in detail. In case of any doubts or queries, you can get in touch with embassy staff and ask for help in [good spoken English](#).



Sample Conversation:

Situation: You are at the Taiwanese Police Station to report loss of a passport.

You: Hi, Where do I file a stolen bag complaint?

Officer: You can file it here.

You: Okay. I wish to report that my bag was stolen today while I was returning from my office. The incident happened at Avenue Plaza, Hue Chou Road.

Officer: Can you describe the thief?

You: The thief was in black overalls with medium height. He had a mask on, so I could not see his face.

Officer: Okay, was there any valuable item in the handbag?

You: There were 500 New Taiwan Dollars, my passport and some office documents.

Officer: Okay. Don't worry; we will catch the thief soon.

You: I am more worried about my passport. Can you help me out with the replacement procedure?

Officer: Sure. We will give you a written report detailing this incident. You just need to submit it to your embassy along with a photocopy of your passport.



You: Thanks. Is there anything else required from me?

Officer: Just sign this report with your full name and date. We will give you a photocopy

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- By Monika Agarwal

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