



Miami Gardens Police Department Property & Evidence Unit FAQ's

The conviction of a criminal offender relies heavily on the careful, methodical, and proper storage of evidence. It is the responsibility of the Property and Evidence Unit to maintain the integrity of the Chain of Custody for each piece of evidence and property. Safeguards are in place to ensure that all incoming property and evidence is processed in accordance with state laws, city ordinances and departmental policies and procedures.

Each item of property and evidence is archived and the background is researched so a final disposition can be determined. The Property & Evidence Unit works closely with the Miami-Dade Medical Examiner's Office, the Miami-Dade County Crime Lab, and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office when necessary.

What are the Evidence Unit's operating hours?

The Property & Evidence Unit is open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday except for Holidays. The Unit is located at 1020 NW 163 Drive, Miami Gardens, FL 33169. To contact the Property & Evidence Unit, call 305-474-1459 or 305-474-1460.

Do I need an appointment to pick up property?

Yes. Appointments are arranged Monday thru Friday from 08:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact the Property & Evidence Unit at 305-474-1459 or 305-474-1460 to schedule an appointment. This will ensure that someone is available to assist you and that your property is ready for release. Please have your case number available. You must bring a valid picture identification with your correct address.

Can someone other than myself pick up my property for me?

Yes. You may assign another person to retrieve your property with a notarized letter of authorization and photo identification. The letter must be addressed to the Miami Gardens Police Department and include your case number, the name of the person you are granting authority, your signature, and Notary Stamp and signature.

Can I get my property back if I am a minor?

Property will only be released to a parent or guardian with proof of legal guardianship.

How long is Property held?

Different types of property are held for different lengths of time. For instance, Found Property is held for a period of 90 days unless it is claimed by the owner. Evidence items are held until such time as they are no longer needed for trial or the statute of limitations expires. Statute of limitations may vary depending on the seriousness of the crime. Additionally, some items can be released pursuant to a court order or authorization from the State Attorneys Office.

Claiming Property

Property that is classified on your property receipt as "Found" or "Safekeeping" (with the exception of firearms) may be claimed by appointment between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday. Contact the Property & Evidence Unit at 305-474-1459 or 305-474-1460 to schedule an appointment.

Found Property

If you're listed as the owner on the property receipt, present the receipt with the case number on it and a valid photo ID. If you are not listed as the owner, you must present proof of ownership, (for example, a bill of sale from the store where you purchased the item or a notarized bill of sale if the item was purchased from a private individual). You can use our online Found Property Listing to view what found items have been turned in. [Click Here to view current items.](#)

Property that You Found

With the exception of firearms and contraband, property that you found must be held for 90 days. If ownership cannot be determined and you wish to claim the property after that period of time, you may contact the Property & Evidence Unit at 305-474-1459 or 305-474-1460.

Safekeeping Property (excluding firearms)

If you are listed on the property receipt as the owner, present the receipt and a valid photo ID. Contact the Property & Evidence Unit at 305-474-1459 or 305-474-1460 to schedule an appointment

I've been notified that you have property of mine and I no longer want it. What should I do?

Just send us a letter stating that you no longer want the property and we will dispose of the items for you. If the item is sold at auction, however, you are not entitled to any of the proceeds.

Does Miami Gardens donate unclaimed bicycles and other items to charitable organizations?

Yes. If your organization is not-for-profit and classified as a 501c(3) charity, send a letter to the Property and Evidence Unit requesting the donation.

Evidence Property

Per Florida statute 925.11, if the suspect in the case is found guilty by jury, the property must be held for four years after sentencing, regardless of who owns the property. If the suspect pled in court or charges were dropped, property can be released with written authorization from the primary officer responsible for the case.

Release of a Firearm

Before the return of any firearm the following must be completed:

1. The person claiming a firearm is subject to a background check to ensure they are not a convicted felon, are not wanted, or have an outstanding domestic violence injunction.
2. A check of Miami Gardens Police Department records must be completed to determine the background information on the case. If there is any question about the adjudication of a charge(s), the weapon will not be released until the issue is resolved.
3. The primary case officer and the Property & Evidence Unit Sergeant must authorize the release.
4. Due to safety concerns, ammunition is not returned unless a Court Order specifies otherwise.
5. Firearms processed as evidence will not be returned without instructions from the State Attorney's Office or a Court Order. Proper photo identification must be presented.
6. Firearms stored on a non-evidentiary nature, such as safekeeping, death investigations, or suicidal incidents, shall not be released without direction from the designated case agent.
7. Firearms subject to Court Ordered Domestic Injunctions requires a certified copy of the court order lifting the injunction prepared by the judge who issued the injunction.
8. Proof of ownership must be provided.

What happens to unclaimed Property?

Property which remains unclaimed by a legal owner will be disposed of by destruction, conversion to City property, donation to charity, public auction, or returned to the finder if a claim was made when the property was recovered.