

Chief, What is the difference between a robbery, a burglary and a theft? Good question. Take a look at the following statutes that were taken from the web page <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs/>

“609.24 SIMPLE ROBBERY.

Whoever, having knowledge of not being entitled thereto, takes personal property from the person or in the presence of another and uses or threatens the imminent use of force against any person to overcome the person's resistance or powers of resistance to, or to compel acquiescence in, the taking or carrying away of the property is guilty of robbery and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than ten years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$20,000, or both.

609.245 AGGRAVATED ROBBERY.

Subdivision 1. First degree.

Whoever, while committing a robbery, is armed with a dangerous weapon or any article used or fashioned in a manner to lead the victim to reasonably believe it to be a dangerous weapon, or inflicts bodily harm upon another, is guilty of aggravated robbery in the first degree and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than 20 years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$35,000, or both.
Subd. 2. Second degree.

Whoever, while committing a robbery, implies, by word or act, possession of a dangerous weapon, is guilty of aggravated robbery in the second degree and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than 15 years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$30,000, or both.

609.582 BURGLARY.

Subdivision 1. Burglary in the first degree.

Whoever enters a building without consent and with intent to commit a crime, or enters a building without consent and commits a crime while in the building, either directly or as an accomplice, commits burglary.....”

Theft – Theft has a much longer definition but it all comes down to a person taking another person’s property with the intent to deny the rightful owner of the property or takes a service without paying for it; an example would be cable TV or electricity.

A simple way of looking at these three different crimes is that people are robbed, places are burglarized and things are stolen (theft). Another interesting point is that not all burglaries involve a theft. For example, if a person enters your home without right to enter and then assaults you; their actions would qualify as a burglary. National statistics show that in comparing these three crimes to each other that robberies are rare, burglaries are few and thefts occur very often. If you have a question that you would like Chief Bolt to answer please call him at 507-360-7864 or email him at minneotapolicedepartment@co.nobles.mn.us