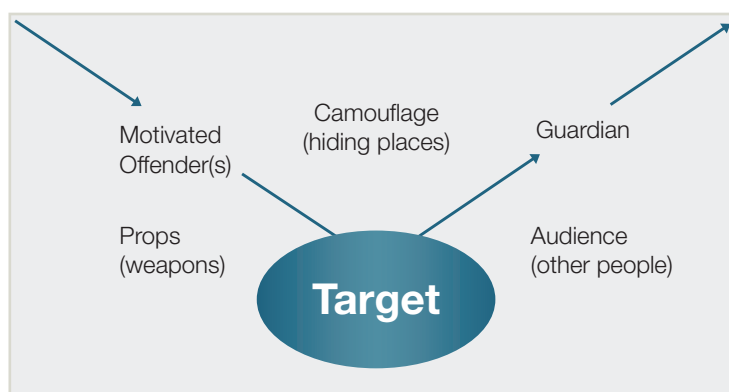


The Ingredients of Crime

Prepared by Garner Clancey



(Information for this Fact Sheet, including this diagram, has been adapted from Felson, M (2002) **Crime in Everyday Life**, 3rd Edition, Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks)

For an offence to take place there must be the coming together of particular ingredients in time and place. These ingredients of crime include:

- **A Motivated Offender** – there must be a motivated offender for a crime to take place. The motivated offender moves in and observes a suitable target.
- **A Suitable Target** – a suitable target could include a person, an item (including drugs, cars, mobile phones, etc.) or structure (fence, rail car, bridge, etc.). The motivated, rational offender decides whether there are risks involved in committing the offence.
- **Absence of Capable Guardians** – a motivated offender will offend against a suitable target in the absence of capable guardians. The loss of milk and bread home delivery personnel, ticket conductors and non-working parents, for example, have reduced the number of capable guardians in our communities and neighbourhoods. Security guards and rangers have in some instances, assumed the ‘eyes and ears’ role once played by these local people.
- **Presence of Props and an Audience** – the risk of crime is accelerated by the presence of props (i.e. weapons, spray paint, screw drivers) and an audience. An audience can goad a motivated offender to steal, assault, rob and damage property.
- **Presence of Camouflage** – the presence of camouflage can increase the likelihood of an offence occurring. Hiding spots, sheltered locations and poorly lit spaces will increase the chances of offending.

By removing these key ingredients, crime can be prevented. Providing better guardianship, stemming the supply of motivated offenders and protecting or removing targets will all help to prevent crime.