Insufficient Security Can Put You into Dicey Situations by Randy Collins

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I learnt a good lesson from the tribulations of my friend who is a dentist. This incident has made me security conscious to the extent that I have started offering advice to people voluntarily to ensure that they do not regret having not taken proper precautions. It is highly important that all of us need to spend some time and a little money to keep ourselves and our belongings secure. With burglars, prowlers and criminals increasing day by day it is not possible for the law enforcement authorities to monitor all household or business premises round the clock.

I remember the incident very well as it was just before Christmas last year that my friendâ€™s life went topsy-turvy, and mine too just because I happened to be his best friend. On that cold winter morning, I got a frantic call from him and sounded very distressed and his speech was incoherent. I had to raise my voice to bring some sense into him and asked him to calm down and tell me what had happened. He asked me to go over to his clinic (which is a good 10 miles away) immediately and from the way he sounded, I asked him to hold on and assured that I would be there ASAP.

I had to drop whatever I was doing and rushed to his swank office, driving like a maniac. I rushed upstairs into his office, fearing for the worst. However it was with a sense of relief that I found him sitting at his desk, with his neat office in total disarray. There were bits of paper and files strewn around and it appeared that all his file cabinets had been pried open. The first odd thing that struck me was, "Whatever would anyone want with dental records?" I quickly enquired about had actually happened and if he had reported the incident to the local police station. He just kept repeating, "What would a burglar do with my papers? I have my next patient coming in, in an hour's time, and all the files are missing. I quickly asked him if he was covered for burglary insurance and he replied in the affirmative, however I was wondering how that would help recover or compensate stolen medical records. While we were at our wits ends, I could hear the distinct tread of footfalls coming up the steps and there was a moment of trepidation as it was too early for the first patient.

I was very relieved to see the reassuring figure of the local policeman walking into the office. However, my friend was looking even more distraught and perplexed. The officer quickly identified himself and went to the point right away after establishing which of the two of us owned the office. He pulled out a photograph and showed it to him asking if he knew that person and my friend just gasped and said that heâ€™s my patient whoâ€™s due in half hour. The officer interjected by saying, this one needs no more teeth to be extracted as he is dead, quite possibly murdered.

My friend turned ashen and blurted, "Am I a suspect?" Not, if I can find matching fingerprints of the person we arrested last night. We suspect that he stole your patient's dental records thinking that he could get away with the murder. It so happened that he had totally disfigured the victim's face and believed that the only bit of clinching evidence would have been the dental records and stole them. Eventually it turned out that the fingerprints did match perfectly with those of the killer's and my friend was let off with a good piece of advice. The parting words are still ringing in my mind. Get yourself a good security system, which would definitely prevent any such unpleasant incidents in the future.

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Randy Collins is a freelance writer who believes that every house or office needs to be totally secure with a reliable security sytem offered by any of the providers like a ADT Home Security.

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