Can the police do anything about earthquake and/or tsunami-related crimes occurring on or after September 29, 2009?

Yes. Many victims of the earthquake and tsunami experienced criminal theft, looting, assault, trespass and other illegal activity following the events of September 29, 2009. As of mid-November of 2009, however, no reports of such crimes have been filed.

The Department of Public Safety can investigate such crimes and arrest those responsible. The Department of the Legal Affairs can then charge the responsible individuals with those crimes and prosecute them.

Questions?

Contact the American Samoa Bar Association’s Disaster Legal Services Clinic at (684) 258-9830.

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Low income defendants charged with misdemeanors and more serious offenses may be provided free legal representation by the Office of the Public Defender. If this applies to you, an attorney will be provided to you at your initial appearance in court. If you wish to contact the Office of the Public Defender after you have been charged, call (684) 633-1286.