

Festus, Mo. Man's Home Burglarized While Attending Son's Funeral
News

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Posted on : 2014/3/12 4:53:05

([KMOV](#)) - Thieves target the home of a grieving father in Jefferson County as he was at his son's funeral.



According to police reports, the suspects got away with nearly \$2,000 worth of property from the Festus home of Gary Smith.

Smith said a lot of people know he collects a lot of everything, guns included, which is why he believes he was targeted.

Of course my two long guns, my two shot guns there. Give them to your kids if you want, I mean they are stolen," said Smith.

Smith's son Gary Jr., 38, was laid to rest on Saturday after dying from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident 10 days prior.

"It's not like they hurt me, but in a way they did hurt me for going through my house," Smith said.

The suspects are believed to have waited for Smith to leave for the funeral, before breaking into his home.

"When they post obituaries in the paper, people read those things, the bad guys read those things," said Lt. Colonel Steve Meinberg with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. "If it's been advertised that you're going to be out of your house, to have somebody stay there or watch after it while you're gone."

News 4's Laura Hettiger asked Lt. Col. Meinberg if he thinks the criminal wants the guns to use of to pawn off for possible drug money. He says he isn't sure in this particular case.

But he did say 80 percent of the crimes that happen in that area are drug-related.