I rented out my second apartment to someone else. I have no idea what he was doing there. Police came and broke the door for investing a crime. Could I ask the compensation from police?

I'll research this in Norwegian law sources (straffeprosessloven, forskrifter, preparatory works and case law).

Used 19 tools, read 2 pages, loaded tools

**Short answer: Yes, you can claim compensation.** Norwegian law has a specific rule for people who are not suspects but suffer damage from a police search. In a case like yours, an uninvolved landlord whose door was broken, the claim has good prospects.

## The legal basis: straffeprosessloven § 448

§ 448 says that people other than the person charged ("andre enn siktede") who suffer damage or inconvenience from a search (ransaking), seizure or other investigative step may be awarded compensation *when this appears reasonable* ("når dette fremstår som rimelig").

A few points from the preparatory works matter for you:

- **No one has to be charged, and you don't need to show the police did anything wrong.** The Storting committee noted that compensation under § 448 can be paid even if nobody was charged in the case (Innst. O. nr. 21 (2002–2003), section 11). The Straffelovråd also noted that this kind of liability doesn't depend on blaming the police (NOU 1996: 18, section 3.1).
- **Any third party who suffers a loss can use the rule.** The listed measures (search, seizure, etc.) are only examples, and both economic loss and probably non-economic loss can be covered (NOU 1996: 18, section 3.6).
- **The test is discretionary**, so "reasonable" is the key word. The government confirmed that non-suspects must rely on this discretionary rule, or on ordinary tort law (skadeserstatningsloven), as an alternative (Ot.prp. nr. 77 (2001–2002), note to § 448).

**Why your case looks strong:** you are an innocent property owner, you didn't know what the tenant was doing, and you had no part in the situation. Those are exactly the people the rule is meant to protect. The assessment could be harder if there were warning signs you ignored, but nothing you've described suggests that.

**Supreme Court confirmation:** In HR-2014-2260-U, which concerned a search on a third party's property, the Supreme Court's appeals committee confirmed (para. 14) that third parties harmed by a search can be compensated under § 448. It also described the claims procedure in § 449. The full text is on the court's own page.

## How to claim: § 449

Under the current § 449:

1. **Send the claim to the police district that investigated the case.** The police forward the case documents to the Ministry, which has delegated these decisions to **Statens sivilrettsforvaltning**.
2. **If you disagree with the decision**, you can sue the state. You can do this in the district court where you live or in Oslo tingrett, and the court will review the claim fully.

**Upcoming change:** An amendment adopted in June 2026 (lov 23. juni 2026 nr. 73, which appears to be based on Prop. 72 L (2025–2026)) will make claims go directly to Statens sivilrettsforvaltning. It is **not yet in force**, so for now you file with the police district.

## Practical tips

- **Include in your claim:** the police case number (straffesaksnummer), the date of the incident, photos of the damage, and invoices or quotes for the door and locks. Add any other documented losses, such as lost rent if the flat couldn't be let.
- **Deadline:** Claims for damages generally become time-barred **3 years** after you knew about the damage and who is responsible (foreldelsesloven § 9). Filing soon is wise.
- **Your tenant:** You may also be able to claim from the tenant under husleieloven § 5-8 if the damage resulted from his fault or neglect, or use the deposit (depositum). Whether that applies depends on the facts, and you can't be paid twice for the same loss.
- **Insurance:** Check your building or contents insurance as well. If the insurer pays, it may then pursue the claim itself.

I'm not a lawyer. For a simple door repair you can usually file the claim yourself. If the amounts are large or the claim is refused, it's worth getting legal advice. I can help you draft the claim letter to the police district if you'd like.

Ask Claude your own question