

- Always carry your bag close to your person and keep a firm grip on it.
- Do not overload yourself with packages and shopping bags. These could delay your reaction time should an emergency arise.
- Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings at all times. Try to know the location of businesses as well as Fire and Police Stations.
- Choose streets that are busy and well lit
- Avoid passing by vacant and/or abandoned buildings, vacant lots, alleys, or deserted construction sites.
- Trust your instincts. If you think someone is following you, cross the street to be certain. If confirmed, then proceed quickly to the nearest place where people are gathered and when it is safe, leave quickly. Or call the Police.
- Do not walk or jog alone. There is safety in numbers.
- Always plan the safest route to your destination and use it.
- Always know the time by making frequent checks on your watch.

Security for School Children

Children attending school may have to be in school by 8 A.M., but they do not have to arrive at the same time every morning. If you take them to school, vary the time of departure from your house by 20 minutes or half-hour every day, depending on where you live, etc. Vary the route from your house to the school, if practical.



If children are being taken to school by public or private bus, try to ensure that the order of their pick-up changes randomly; every day if possible. Doing this will ensure that your children's routine is not predictable and that they are not easy targets for predators.

... for Adolescents

This aspect may be less challenging because adolescents are more aware of their surroundings. Discuss with them safety and security issues: you will be surprised to know how much they already know. Engage their participation by discussing the following:

- Not readily trusting of everyone.
- Being aware of who their friends are and with whom they hang out.
- Getting to know the parents of your child's closest friends.
- Being alert as to what is taking place around them.
- How to react to possible dangerous situations.
- When the telephone rings, find out who is calling before identifying the family member.
- If they are in a public place, nightclub or restaurant and they are called over the loudspeaker system, they should not respond or acknowledge. Instead they should contact their family member or close friends to ascertain if someone is looking for them.
- When walking on the streets, they should always be aware of what is going on around them. They ought to note if they are being followed, watched, or being approached. If such is the case, they should immediately go to a safe place e.g. a shop, mall or bank with security guards and let them know they are being followed. If a secure area is not available, they should call out and draw attention to themselves and to the person who seems to be following them.
- They should NEVER get into an automobile with unknown persons.
- They should have random times and routes to regular places when they visit with friends.

For More Information

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–TO PROTECT AND SERVE WITH PRIDE–



Crime Prevention Tips



Knowing how to protect yourself can reduce the opportunity for muggers, purse snatchers, predators and other criminals to strike

General Tips

- If approached by an assailant, cooperate and surrender your valuables.
- Try to avoid being taken to an alley or any remote location. However, if the assailant insists, do not resist.
- Do not make any sudden moves; your assailant may be more nervous than you are.
- Defend yourself if physically attacked.
- Walk on the side of the street, facing oncoming traffic.
- On a busy street, carry your handbag or briefcase at your side, away from the curb, and stay close to buildings.
- Flatten yourself against a building if you hear rapidly approaching footsteps behind you.
- If you are being followed on a well-traveled street, slow down, speed up or reverse directions – in other words – indicate to your pursuer that you are aware of him. Then immediately seek assistance at the nearest Police Station.
- Do not play games if followed on a deserted street. Walk briskly either towards other people or a congested area.
- You are advised not to carry large sums of money. If you have to, do not carry all in one place on your person.
- If necessary, do not hesitate to walk in the streets.
- If you walk the streets at night regularly, vary your routes to minimise the possibility of someone making you a predictable target.
- If you witness a crime or accident while walking, send for help. Don't try to help. Only when qualified help is on the way, and you are positive that you are not in danger, should you attempt to be of assistance.



At Home

- Never allow strangers into your home. If necessary, speak through an open window.
- If you return home and find your doors tampered with, do not enter or raise an alarm – call the Police.
- When leaving home for an extended period of time, stop all deliveries.
- Lock doors and windows while watching television.
- Do not leave house keys under doormats or in flowerpots, etc. Provide a key for each member of the household. It is far cheaper than replacing stolen items.
- If household chores are being done at the back of the premises, see to it that the front is secured or vice versa.
- Burglar proofing should be installed on the inside of windows and doors. However, it is equally necessary to ensure that one or more of the proofing is arranged for a

quick escape. Where there is an air condition unit, it should be secured with burglar proofing as well.

- Aides should be properly screened before being employed. When new ones are employed, unexpected checks should be made at home.
- Children should be told not to allow strangers to enter the home in the absence of parents. Aides and children should be advised when repairmen are expected.
- Employ known repairmen or those from established firms, whose identity can be confirmed with a telephone call.
- Avoid high hedges and shrubs around homes and business places.
- Always carefully observe your surroundings before entering your gateway, particularly at night.
- Get to know your neighbours.

When Shopping

- Do not display large quantities of cash in public. When replacing cash, put it away carefully and look around to see if anyone is displaying a particular interest in your activities. Showing you are alert can deter an assailant. Practice it.
- Hold handbags close to your body with your arm through the strap.
- It is not wise to keep your purse in your handbag. The handbag is a perfect target for thieves and could be easily snatched.
- Overloading yourself with too many parcels can cause you to be confused and lose one or two. Keep shopping at a manageable levels, particularly when using public transport.
- Do not leave shopping bags in the back seat of your vehicle.
- Be careful about having a stranger hold your parcels, whether in a shopping line or on the bus; they could easily disappear with them.
- Avoid crowded areas if you can. If you must go, take precautions like holding your handbag close to your body and being aware of any unusual or persistent body contact, which can be an attempt to pick your purse or wallet.



Family Safety

Every citizen must maintain a reasonable awareness of the potential dangers in his or her daily life.

This includes maintaining a healthy alertness when encountering strangers at home and on the streets; as well as avoiding situations which could leave one open to personal attack and powerless to summon help.

This may be achieved with the following precautions:

- As far as possible avoid walking alone especially after sunset.
- Do not take short cuts through lonely tracks or dark alleys.
- Always walk facing the traffic so that no vehicle can pull up behind you.
- Do not accept transportation from strangers.
- Cover up expensive jewelry while walking on the streets.
- If you are out very late, ensure you get escorted home or travel with a driver who knows you. Ask your escort or driver to wait until you are safely inside.