



Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department

North District

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Robbery and Assault Prevention

Robbery and assault are serious crimes. While money is often the motivation, these incidents are considered “crimes of violence” because they involve the threat or actual use of physical violence. The basic rules of prevention are to be sensible and to be alert. The following tips will reduce the risk of becoming a victim of robbery or assault.

Personal Safety Tips on the Street

- ✓ If possible, don't walk alone during late-night hours. Walk in groups whenever you can - there is always safety in numbers.
- ✓ Let a family member or friend know your destination and your estimated time of arrival or return. That way, the Police can be notified as quickly as possible if there is a problem.
- ✓ Stay in well-lit areas as much as possible. Avoid alleys, vacant lots, wooded areas and other short-cuts or secluded areas. They are usually not well-lit or heavily traveled.
- ✓ Walk on the sidewalk whenever possible. Walk close to the curb, avoiding doorways, bushes and other potential hiding places.
- ✓ If you have to walk in the street, walk facing traffic. A person walking with traffic can be followed, forced into a car and abducted more easily than a person walking against traffic.
- ✓ Walk confidently, directly and at a steady pace. Don't stop to talk to strangers.
- ✓ Wear clothing and shoes that give you freedom of movement; And don't burden yourself with too many packages.
- ✓ Always be aware of your surroundings. If you are wearing headphones, don't turn up the volume so high that you cannot hear outside noises.
- ✓ Never hitchhike or accept rides from strangers.
- ✓ Report any suspicious activity or person immediately to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department by calling 9-1-1.
- ✓ Avoid carrying or displaying large sums of cash or expensive jewelry or valuables in public.

Basic Street Smarts

- ✓ Wherever you are - on the street, in an office building or shopping mall, driving, waiting for a bus or ride - stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings.
- ✓ Project the message that you are calm, confident and know where you're going.
- ✓ Trust your instincts. If something, someone or a location makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave the place immediately.
- ✓ Know the neighborhoods and areas where you live and work.
- ✓ Check out the locations of police and fire stations, hospitals, restaurants or stores that are open late.

If Someone Tries to Rob You

- ✓ Don't resist. Give up your property - don't give up your life.
- ✓ Self-defense measures are most effective when applied as preventive steps - avoiding the crime in the first place. These measures include running away, hiding, screaming and raising an alarm.
- ✓ Report the crime to the Police immediately.
- ✓ Try to get a description of the suspect as accurately as possible, including clothing, facial hair, scars, tattoos, their speech, anything; and the details of how they got away and if a weapon was seen or implied.

Online Sales Safety

There are several tips that those involved in online sales should keep in mind when it comes to the person-to-person meeting:

- ✓ Use a Law Enforcement facility's lot or lobby when possible. If the other person hesitates at the idea of meeting there, don't make the deal.
- ✓ When a Law Enforcement facility is not available, have the meeting take place during daylight hours and at a public location like a Fire Station, inside a shopping mall, coffee shop or restaurant; where there will be a lot of people around and surveillance.
- ✓ Bring someone with you to the meeting and arrive to the location before the set time.
- ✓ Let a family member or friend know the location, time and other person's contact information.
- ✓ If the seller insists that you come to their home, think of your well-being first and decline.
- ✓ At the first sign that a meeting is going in a direction that makes you uncomfortable, leave.

Your actions can help prevent you and others from becoming victims.

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