



For further information, please
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Personal Safety



**MAKING YOUR COMMUNITY A
BETTER PLACE TO LIVE**

Courtesy of

William L. Tokajer

Chief of Police

(941) 778-COPS (2677)

Personal Safety Starts With You

Instinct vs Judgment

Always heed your inner voice

Don't let your judgment "talk you out of" reacting to your inner voice.

If you feel uncomfortable about a situation, more times than not, there is a reason to feel that way. That is your inner fear telling you to BEWARE!
Take a cell phone with you.

Cell Phones

If you do not want to pay for a cell phone service, any digital cell phone will contact to emergency services if you call 911. You do not need to have pay for a cell service for this call.

Convenience Stores

Look at the clerk as your drive up—
Do they look as if something is happening? Park in a well-lit area close to the door. Lock your car and take the keys.

Out and About

You are 70% safer when you are with someone versus alone.

Stay focused and alert when you are out

Walk with purpose—don't fumble for your keys, purse, wallet, etc.

Leave expensive jewelry at home when shopping—don't give the criminal a reason to steal

When leaving a shopping area, if you feel uncomfortable, ask for an employee to walk you to your car. Take advantage of the employee to carryout your purchases.

Men—put your wallets in your front pocket. They are less likely to pick your front pocket rather than the back.

Women—can you leave your purse at home? Take only the necessary items with you i.e. drivers license, credit/debit cards, money in a small coin purse that fits in your front pocket

NEVER carry your social security card or Medicare Cards with you. If stolen, those cards can lead to identity theft.

Driving

Be alert where you are driving

If you break down, call for help and stay with your car.

ATM

Use drive-up ATM

Be alert—is anyone watching you?

If someone comes up behind you, exit the area and wait for a clear time. If someone says "go ahead and I will wait", tell them to go ahead, go back to your car and wait for the area to be clear. If it does not clear, go to another ATM.

Always shield your PIN.

***:Putting in your PIN backwards DOES NOT CALL THE POLICE.

At Home

Keep doors locked, use the peep hole to look out, keep the garage door closed.

Don't open the door to strangers, "Ask who is it?" say "I am not interested". But DO NOT OPEN the door.

Call the police to check out the stranger.