

- Remind your child that if he or she is lost - to find a store clerk or police officer and wait with that person until you or the police arrive. The child shouldn't go with someone who offers to take him or her to you unless it is a uniformed police officer.

- Your child should never approach or get into a car with someone they don't know.

- Remind your child that child predators look like regular folks, so **anyone that you don't know is a stranger!**

- If you must leave your child at home alone, remind the child never to open the door for anyone that you have not approved and not to give out personal information on the telephone. Never tell someone who calls on the telephone that they are home alone!

- Don't put nametags on the outside of your children's clothing, books, book bags, etc. A child abductor will use this to his/her advantage.

- If your child is in a dangerous situation, he or she should yell for help by screaming "this is NOT my Mom/Dad" and to run to a trusted adult. The child should know never to run into an uninhabited area.

- Have your child fingerprinted.
- Maintain a current photo of your child.

It is important for families to talk about child safety. Keep an open dialogue, and take advantage of the many resources available for keeping your child safe!

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

The following telephone numbers should be posted by your telephone and each child in the home should know what each number is for:

EMERGENCY/POLICE/FIRE/AMBULANCE "9-1-1"

DOCTOR _____

PARENT'S WORK
NUMBERS _____

PARENT'S CELLPHONE
or BEEPER NUMBERS _____

CLOSE
RELATIVE _____

CLOSE FRIEND
or NEIGHBOR _____

SCHOOL _____

POISON
CONTROL _____

Child Abduction Prevention



Somerset County
Prosecutor's Office

Somerset County Prosecutor's Office

40 North Bridge Street
P.O. Box 3000 • Somerville, NJ 08876-1262
908-231-7100

www.scpo.net

TIPS HOTLINE 1-888-577-TIPS (8477)

PREVENTING CHILD ABDUCTION:

Thousands of children are reported missing every year in America. Some children will be found and returned home. Some will not. Child abduction is a tragedy that devastates parents and touches all of us.

We sincerely hope that you or your child will never have to use any of the information in this brochure. However, we believe that by knowing these simple rules and tips it will empower your child if an abduction occurs, and may save their life.

PARENTS PLEASE TEACH YOUR CHILD:

First and foremost, make sure your child knows never to go with someone they don't know.

If they are grabbed from behind, around the neck and shoulders, they should drop down, twist their body, and scream.

If they are grabbed by the wrist, they should pull down and twist the attacker's thumb to break the hold. They should **NOT** pull away because that's where the adult has strength.

To escape if in a store, they should knock things off shelves, run, fight, scream.

To escape if outside, they should run into the nearest house, ask for help and call 911. Don't try to hide.

To escape if in a parking garage they should, run between cars, knock against cars and pull on door handles to set off the car alarms.

If your child is grabbed and put into a car they should, try to climb into the back seat so they can get the back door open and escape. Otherwise, they should slide down onto the front floor and reach up under the dash and pull any wires they can get their hands on. Often this will bring the car to a stop. They could also try to pound on the car's horn and scream as loudly as they can. If stopped at a light, they might try to jam their foot on top of the kidnapper's foot on the accelerator and ram the car in front.

If locked in a car trunk they should, kick out the car's stop lights for air and wave out of the hole for help and pull out any wires they can get their hands on.

NOTE: IF YOUR CHILD IS KIDNAPPED, TELL THE POLICE "MY CHILD KNOWS HOW TO KICK OUT STOP LIGHTS, AND PULL OUT THE WIRES OF BACK LIGHTS."

The police will have a better chance of finding your child because they will stop cars without back lights.

If your child is kidnapped and kept in a house or apartment they should, flash room lights as an SOS signal. Clog the toilet with a towel and keep flushing to flood the

apartment below. Try every window and door in the house.

Your child should not remain quiet or still, even if the abductor threatens to harm them. ***That's not part of their immediate plan.*** Teach them to fight for their life because they will most likely be harmed or killed otherwise.

THESE TIPS TELL YOU HOW TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFER.

- Make sure your child knows his or her complete name, address, and telephone number with area code. Teach them how to reach you or a trusted adult. It seems like a lot to remember, but this is one of the most important child safety tips.
- Show your child how to dial 911. Let your child know this is for emergencies only.
- Establish a family code word for situations when your child is to be picked up by someone other than a parent or regular caregiver. Also establish strict procedures for picking up children at school, after the movies, at friends' homes, shopping malls, etc.
- Teach your child that if it feels weird, it probably is and regularly remind your child that he or she can talk to you about anything.
- Know where your children are at all times.
- Don't lose sight of your child in public places, especially when very crowded.
- Never leave children alone in cars - even for a minute!