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NASSAU COUNTY
SPiN
A Crime Prevention Partnership
SECURITY / POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK



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PERSONAL SAFETY

IF A STRANGER IS AT YOUR DOOR

- Never indicate you are home alone.
- When home alone never open your door to a stranger.
- Use your wide-angle viewer to see who is at your door.
- Do not open the door to anyone you do not know without first verifying the person's identity. This includes police officers, repair, delivery or salespersons, and political or charity volunteers.
- Ask to see identification.
- Have the person slip their identification card under the door. If you have any doubts about the person, look up the telephone number in the telephone directory and call the company or agency the person claims to represent.
- Do not rely on telephone numbers given to you by strangers at your door, the telephone number they give you could be an accomplice.
- Do not open the door to a stranger requesting help or the use of your telephone. Offer to make the telephone call yourself while the stranger waits outside.
- When a package is delivered, ask that the parcel be left outside the door. Receipts that require a signature can be slipped under the door. Open the door and pick up the package only when you are positive the delivery person has left.
- Never allow a stranger into a security entrance. This includes someone asking to leave a package or a note for a neighbor.
- Children should be trained not to answer the door.
- Place only your first initial and last name on mailboxes and building directories. Consider listing a fictitious roommate if you live alone.
- List only your first initial and last name in the telephone directory. Do not list your address.

- Engrave all your valuable property. Keep a record of the serial numbers of valuable equipment. Photograph or videotape other valuables. Keep photographs, videotapes and records of serial numbers separate from your valuables in a safe at home or in a safe-deposit box.
- Before moving into a new residence change the locks. Previous tenants may still have keys.
- Always lock your door, even if you leave your home for just a few minutes.
- Keep venetian blinds and curtains closed, especially at night. Leave lights on in two or more rooms to indicate the presence of other persons.
- Have telephone numbers for emergencies, such as the police dept, fire and paramedic services on every telephone instrument in the house.

WALKING

- Avoid walking alone.
- Walk on streets where there are other people.
- Stay alert to your surroundings at all times. Observe people and activities around you. Look confident and purposeful when you walk.
- Plan and use the safest and most direct route to your destination.
- Choose busy, well-lighted streets and avoid isolated areas, alleys, vacant lots, abandoned buildings and construction sites.
- Walk near the curb and do not pass too close to shrubbery, dark doorways and other places of concealment.
- Avoid shortcuts.
- Become familiar with stores and gas stations that stay open late at night, as well as NCPD, sheriff, highway patrol and fire department locations.
- Walk facing traffic so you can see approaching cars.
- Carry a flashlight during hours of darkness.
- Be aware that wearing earphones connected to MP3 players, portable radios, cassette and CD players while walking can distract you and make you less able to sense potential danger.
- Always bring change with you for cab fare, bus fare or telephone calls in case you decide not to walk. Keep some extra money separate from your wallet or purse for emergencies.
- Never hitchhike and do not accept rides from strangers.

- Carry a personal alarm. Use the personal alarm to attract attention and to summon help if you feel you are in danger. Carry the personal alarm in your hand so that you can use it immediately.
- If followed or threatened by someone in a car, use your personal alarm or scream loud and long, cross the street and run in the opposite direction. This will force the driver to turn the car around to pursue you. Try to obtain the license plate number and a description of the car and its occupant(s).
- If followed or threatened by someone who is walking, use your personal alarm or scream loud and long, cross the street and run in the opposite direction. Head for bright lights and people.
- Do not display money or credit cards.
- Unless absolutely necessary, never wear expensive jewelry or carry large amounts of money.
- Keep your money and wallet in the inside pocket of your jacket or purse.
- Secure your purse or handbag under your arm so that it cannot be easily snatched.
- When arriving home by taxicab or limousine request the driver to wait until you are inside the house.
- Have your keys ready so you can open the door to your house as soon as possible.
- If a door or window has been forced open or broken while you were out, do not enter your home, because a burglar may be inside. Use your cell phone or a neighbor's phone to call 911. Advise the 911 operator you will wait at your neighbor's house until they arrive. Make sure to give them the address.

Source: Los Angeles Police Department