
Crime and Safety: Protecting Your Family

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Stopping Crime Before it Starts

- This presentation contains valuable information on keeping all members of your family safe
- The key to safety is knowledge and prevention
- Please share what you learn with your family, friends and loved ones



Protecting Innocence: Child Safety

To most parents, child safety is incredibly important. However, a lack of information about sexual predators can lead to disaster. The best defense against predators is to know with whom and where your child is at all times, and remember that a predator can be ANYONE. Here are some general points to consider when thinking of your child's safety.



- Be aware of registered sex offenders in your community – check <http://ohio.esorn.net/index.php?AgencyID=53939>

- Abductors can be of any race, gender, or age and are typically not strangers
- Danger signs include behavioral change, gifts from adults without your presence or permission, sexually explicit language from your child
- A KEY warning sign is secretive behavior
- Know with WHOM and WHERE your child is at ALL times
- Your child should know your home address, telephone number, and how to reach you at all times
- Knowledge is Power: TALK to your child
- In case of emergency, keep on hand: current photo, medical/dental records, DNA sample, fingerprints

Cyber Safety: Staying Safe Online

Today, children spend more time than ever surfing the net. However, in doing so they make themselves prime targets for a new breed of cyber sexual predators. Thus, it is crucially important that parents be aware of all online activity.

- 1 in 5 youths online have been approached by a pedophile – however, only 1 of 4 victims inform their parents
- Sexual predators approach children via chat rooms, instant messaging and MySpace websites
- Utilize blocking software such as NetNanny to protect youth
- Keep computers in the family or living room – If you can't see it, they shouldn't do it
- NEVER allow your child to meet with strangers met online, regardless of the self-description they provide



If approached online, your child should stop talking immediately, SAVE the conversation, inform you and your local law enforcement agency

Truancy: Keeping Kids in School

A sound education has long been the key determinant of success in an individual's life. Thus, keeping your child in school is key to securing their future and is also the law.



- To help your child succeed, encourage good study habits, set achievable goals, know when your child is absent and get INVOLVED

- The Law: Youth age 6-18 MUST attend school regularly
- Truancy results in children not being educated which increases the likelihood of a future life in crime and drugs
- Truancy Intervention Program
 - 2 unexcused absences – warning letter
 - 5 unexcused absences – truancy intervention meeting
 - 7 unexcused absences – unofficial hearing
 - 7 or more consecutive unexcused absences – charges filed/official hearing

Turning 18: With Great Power Comes *Greater Responsibility*

- Ignorance cannot be a defense in court...so KNOW the law
- Alcohol and Drugs
 - Having underage drinkers in your car equates to contributing to the delinquency of a minor
 - The legal limit is .02 BAC if under 21
 - Open containers of alcohol are not permitted in any motor vehicle or public place
 - Drugs can be detected in urine for 30 days
 - Drug sales/usage/possession carry serious penalties, including imprisonment
- Sex Crimes: NO sex with minors
 - No Sexual Conduct with another 13-15 years of age (under 13 is rape)
 - Violators will be labeled sexual offenders and must register
- License Suspensions result from:
 - Lack of auto insurance, DUI, marijuana and other drug use/possession

As you turn 18, you step into the world of adulthood. As an adult, you are given new privileges. However, you now also have the responsibility to follow the law or else be punished as an adult. Make it a point to know not only your rights but the law.



Sexual Assault: Staying Safe

As your children enter college, be aware of the risks of sexual assault. Sexual assault can occur between anyone, anywhere. On college campuses, the meaning of “no” is often forgotten, and sexual assault or “date rape” becomes an accepted behavior. Make sure your children know that no one has a right to their personal space but them.



- 84% of rapists are known to the victim
- Most rapes occur while victim is intoxicated by the influence of a drug, such as GHB or Rohypnol, or alcohol
- Sexually coercive behavior includes **ANY** unwanted physical contact in addition to verbal threats and encouraging intoxication for sex
- Lack of consent occurs with **ANY** verbal or non-verbal message of “**No**” or if the victim is physically unable to resist (unconscious or intoxicated)
- Be wary of alcohol: Never accept open drinks, drinks from large open containers or leave your drink unattended
- College campuses are prime grounds for sexual assault and date rape...be vigilant of your surroundings and remember that “no” means no

When Crime Strikes at Home: Domestic Violence

- Victims **DO NOT** need to be the spouse of the abuser to qualify as victims of domestic abuse
 - Victims include children, seniors, spouses and intimate partners
- Look for signs of domestic abuse
 - Depression, crying
 - Frequent and sudden absences from work
 - Fear of the partner, references to the partner's anger
 - Decreased productivity and attentiveness
- Domestic Violence is sparked by various factors:
 - Stress/anger/jealousy
 - Economic hardship
 - Depression
- Contact National Domestic Violence Hotline at: **1-800-799-7233** for help

Domestic violence destroys relationships, families and futures. It knows no demographic and can strike anyone. It is important to be vigilant to signs of domestic violence as many victims do not come forward. Be aware of these signals and provide support to anyone you think is a victim.



Safety for Seniors

Victimization of seniors can be avoided by maintaining a vigilant grasp of your surroundings and by keeping an air of confidence. Criminals target those who are unaware of their surroundings and thus are unable to call for help in time or those who appear nervous.



- Always carry a cell phone
- Be wary of carrying wallets in your back pocket, dangling purses, shopping alone, carrying ID on a key ring or carrying large sums of money
- If you feel uncomfortable approaching your car, ask for an escort, check your seats and always have your keys out
- To prevent ID theft, you should:
 - Use a shredder
 - Do not hand out personal data via phone or to e-mail requests
 - Do not put your SSN on checks or other documents
 - Have pensions deposited directly to accounts
 - Vary your banking routine

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- Victim-Witness Advocates are available
- We can help make contacts and referrals to law enforcement agencies
- Additional resources are available on our website:

www.co.warren.oh.us/Prosecutor/
