

# LIVESECURE.ORG SAFETY TIPS:

## SETTING THE STAGE FOR CHILDREN:

- It is very important to approach the subject of safety in a non-threatening way. We do not want to make children fearful of dangerous situations or people in general, but we do want to teach them to be cautious and able to recognize when something may be wrong.
- The key is to help children feel empowered and to encourage them to develop and trust their intuition. We want to teach them to be able to talk to you when something is bothering them. Open communication between parents and children is one of the most important aspects to protecting your child from predators.

## 10 SAFETY TIPS EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW:

1. **THE KEY IS COMMUNICATION:** It is important to talk openly with your children about all safety issues, including what to do in a potential abduction situation.
2. **KNOWLEDGE IS POWER:** Talk to your children about the rules pertaining to strangers. Let them know a stranger or predator looks just like any other person and will use several ways to lure a child.
3. **COMMON PREDATOR LURES:** Pretending to look for a lost pet, asking the child for directions, giving or promising candy and/or money if the child will go to their car, and threatening to hurt family members if the child does not comply.
4. Never label clothing, backpacks, or other personal items with your child's name. A predator will use this information to try to gain your child's trust.
5. Give your children instructions on what to do if they get separated from you in a mall, supermarket or any other public place. Tell them to first find a mother with children or any woman and let them know they are lost. Also they can go to a check-out counter, information desk, or approach a police officer.
6. Make sure that your child knows his or her full name, address, and phone number and the phone number for the place where you work or how to contact you. They also need to know how to dial 911 and make collect calls.
7. Know where your children are at all times, and keep a list of their friend's addresses and phone numbers.
8. Remember to update your children's records including a photo every 6-12 months.
9. **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE:** Going over this information once with your children is not enough! You must continue to rehearse and "role play" to make the learning permanent so your child can react properly under pressure.
10. **IF YOUR CHILD IS MISSING:** Try not to panic. First check everywhere in the house, then check with your neighbors and your child's friends. If you still cannot locate them, call the police **immediately**.

**REMEMBER:** There is no waiting period required to report a missing child to the police.

## 14 CHARACTERISTIC & WARNING SIGNS OF ABUSIVE INDIVIDUALS:

1. History of abuse as a child, to include psychological, physical, and possibly sexual abuse.
2. History of verbal and physical abuse of his parents, siblings, friends, and even animals.
3. History of vandalism or minor crimes to include those of violence, whether or not a matter of legal record.
4. Lack of a positive male role model in the home, or the presence of an abusive male or female authority figure in the early or formative years.
5. Exhibition of a violent temper; or a "low boiling point."
6. The need to be in control of all situations and especially the need to control or dominate those closest to him.
7. Unusual jealousy i.e. "spying" on the abused person.
8. The viewing and ownership of pornographic materials, especially bondage and child pornography.
9. Alcohol and other kinds of significant substance abuse.
10. Either a very low or an exceedingly high self-image; a "macho" man, possibly connected to physical stature, educational background, or professional occupation.
11. The inability to talk about or discuss personal feelings.
12. Insensitivity to the feelings of others.
13. Frequent lying, many times for no apparent reason.
14. The inability to admit guilt in any situation.

**REMEMBER:** Knowing the above early warning signs can help you "self-screen" or "screen out" those you may consider dating. Abusive individuals will exhibit numerous of the above mentioned characteristics.

**NOTE:** Non-abusive individuals may also exhibit some of these characteristics at points in their lives but with less frequency and duration than abusive individuals.

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