



**Ramsey County Sheriff's Department  
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**Personal Safety**

**Automated Teller Machines**

- Only use ATM machines in a well-lighted, open, high-traffic area during the daytime
- ATM machines in supermarkets are safer for nighttime use
- Avoid ATM machines adjacent to obvious hiding places
- When you approach an ATM scan the area first for loiterers
- Have your card ready and leave quickly, not counting your cash in public
- Walk or drive away immediately if your instincts tell you so
- Don't argue with a robber, if confronted, and give up the cash
- Don't fight with or attempt to follow the robber
- Drive to a safe place and immediately call the police

**Shopping Centers**

- Be aware and alert to predators in the parking lot
- Plan when to go and where to park
- Do not get out of the car if it doesn't appear safe to do so
- Scan the area around your car as you approach it
- Teach your family to enter and exit the car quickly
- Trust your instincts if you see someone suspicious
- Return to the store if anyone looks or acts suspicious
- Ask if the shopping center does parking lot escorts

## **Hotels or Motels**

- Always request a room on an upper floor, if possible
- A solid core door with a good deadbolt lock is best
- Electronic card-access locks minimize key control questions
- Make sure your door has a peephole and night latch and use it
- Use your do not disturb sign whenever you are in the room
- Inspect the room hiding places upon entering and check all locks
- Supervise children at all times especially at the pool or gym
- Ask the bellman for an escort and use valet parking, if alone

## **Vehicle Safety**

- Always park in well-lighted areas, if you plan to arrive/leave after dark
- Don't park in isolated or visually obstructed areas near walls or heavy foliage
- Use valet parking or an attended garage, if you're a woman driving alone
- As you walk to your car be alert to suspicious persons sitting in cars
- Ask for a security escort if you are alone at a shopping center
- Watch out for young males loitering in the area (handing out flyers, etc)
- If someone tries to approach, change direction or run to a busy store
- Follow your instincts if they tell you to walk/run away to a busy place
- As you approach your vehicle, look under, around, and inside your car
- If safe, open the door, enter quickly, and lock the doors
- Don't be a target by turning your back while loading packages into the car
- Make it your habit to always start your car and drive away immediately
- Teach and practice with your children to enter and exit the car quickly
- In the city, always drive with your car doors locked and windows rolled up
- When stopped in traffic, leave room ahead to maneuver and escape, if necessary
- If you are bumped in traffic, by young males, be suspicious of the accident
- Beware of the Good Samaritan who offers to repair your car or a flat tire. It's okay to get help, just be alert
- Wave to follow, and drive to a gas station or busy place before getting out
- If you are ever confronted by an armed carjacker don't resist

## **Vehicle Safety Continued**

- Give up your keys or money if demanded without resistance
- Don't argue, fight or chase the robber. You can be seriously injured
- Never agree to be kidnapped. Drop the cars keys and run and scream for help
- If you are forced to drive, consider crashing your car near a busy intersection to attract attention so bystanders can come to your aid and call the police
- Call the police immediately to report the crime and provide detailed information

For more information on crime prevention education you may visit our website at [www.co.ramsey.mn.us/sheriff/index.asp](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/sheriff/index.asp)