



Crystal Lake Police Department

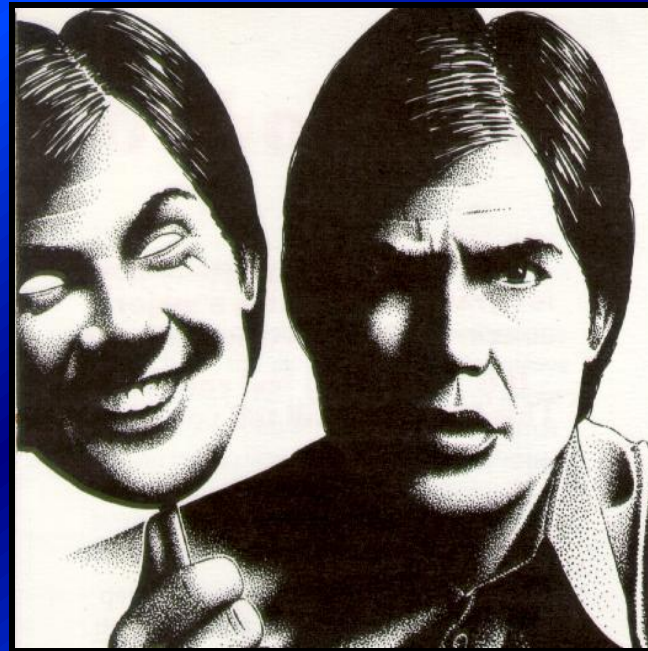
A collaborative approach to our children's safety





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“Stay away from strangers” is a popular phrase used when discussing safety with children.



THE EXPLOITER OR ABDUCTOR: NOT NECESSARILY A “STRANGER.”



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- This approach can mislead children into believing that they should be concerned only about people who they do not know or who have an unusual appearance.
- Abductors and exploiters are usually “acquaintances”.
- Describing a “stranger” can be difficult for an adult to explain – and is even more difficult for a child to understand



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Instead, it is more effective to teach children to:

- Avoid people who are not known to parents, and
- Get away from uncomfortable situations involving anyone, including friends and acquaintances.





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WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT ABDUCTION AND EXPLOITATION.





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Know where your children are and who they are interacting with.

- Be familiar with daily activities. Remind older children to occasionally call home.
- Know your children's friends and their families.



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Avoid placing your child's name in a visible place:

- Clothing.
- Back pack.
- Lunch box.
- Bicycle.



A child may not realize that someone who knows his or her name may not necessarily be a friend.



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If you become “lost”, do not wander.

- Immediately go to a “trustworthy” person (i.e., cashier, security guards, uniformed police officer) and ask for help.
- Stay away from people in cars, vans or trucks.
- You don’t need to go near the car to talk to the people inside.



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If someone holds you or attempts to take you somewhere, immediately:

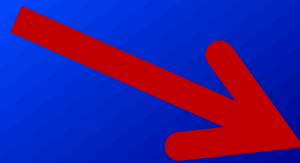
- Pull down (versus away) and run.
- Pull out of your jacket, shirt, back pack, etc. and run.
- Hold onto or wrap your arms and legs around anything (bicycle, fence, tree). Don't let go.



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What your child needs to know
If approached by a stranger

NO



GO



YELL



TELL



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NO : Child should tell the stranger “NO”.

GO: Child should get away (run away)
from the stranger.

YELL: Child should yell to draw attention
to themselves.

TELL: Child should tell a trusted adult.



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If pulled into a vehicle.

- Open the door and run from the vehicle as soon as it stops in traffic, at an intersection, toll booth, store, etc.
- If possible, jump into the back seat. Open the door and run when the vehicle stops. The person cannot control you and drive at the same time.



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Before going anywhere, always tell a parent or the person in charge (i.e., teacher, babysitter) where you are going.

- If plans change, check first. Never accept a ride before getting approval.



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Run away from danger, never toward it.

- If someone in a car follows you, turn around and run in the opposite direction.
- Run to a safe place (i.e., any place where there are other people) - not a wooded area or unoccupied building.





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Adults Should

- Create an environment that encourages your child to let you know if they are approached.
- Let them know they will not be in trouble. CALL THE POLICE immediately.



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- We do not close and you are not bothering us.
- If the suspect is still in the area, we will go to the area and search. We may also set up a perimeter.
- The police can contact adjoining jurisdictions and the school both during the school day and after hours.





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Adults Should

- Identify pre-existing safe areas in your neighborhoods. (Schools, government buildings, neighbors you know, etc.)
- Have a “Safety Plan” and practice the safety plan.
- Teach children what to do if approached by a stranger and then practice what to do.



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Educate Your Children

- If a consistent and repeated message is given to our children about strangers, it will re-enforce for them what to do if confronted.
- This can be achieved by all of us working together, providing the same message to our children.



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The Crystal Lake Police Department is committed to working with District #47, and parents to make this happen but parents need to also provide the message.





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Crystal Lake Police Department/School District #47

Nixle

<http://www.nixle.com/>

Nixle is a service that allows you to receive trusted, up-to-date neighborhood information for where you live, work, visit – or where your family and friends are located throughout the country. The service is at no cost to you. However, standard text messaging rates apply.



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Resources For You as Parents

National Crime Prevention Council
webpage on strangers:

<http://www.ncpc.org/topics/violent-crime-and-personal-safety/strangers>

National Center for Missing and
Exploited Children:

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=713