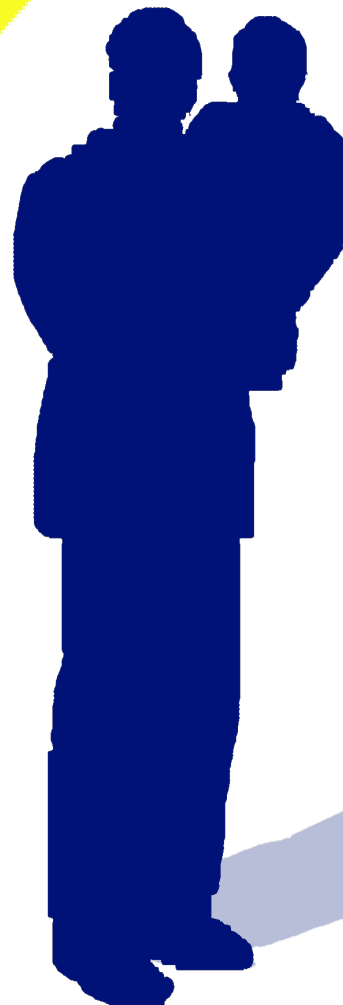


# Public Advisory

0006-3

# Stranger Danger

## A Guide for Parents and Teachers



*This "Public Advisory" is offered as a guide that suggests actions in the event your child is accosted and/or held captive.*

*If no one is aware your child has been abducted, he/she may need to make a decision that could contain a degree of risk. It is a personal choice to make such a decision.*

**This "Public Advisory" is a publication of the  
Nassau County Police Department.**

For further information, call the  
Nassau County Police Department  
Public Information Office  
at 516-573-7135.

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE



**LAWRENCE W. MULVEY**  
POLICE COMMISSIONER



## BE PREPARED AND...



### **Educate Your Children:**

Parents, guardians, teachers: Your Nassau County Police Department strongly advises you to talk with your children about Stranger Danger. And then, talk some more! Children are abducted, molested and harmed by predators every year. These criminals pose different risks in a multitude of circumstances. Stranger Danger is a real and present possibility, which can often be prevented!

### **Know what a 'Stranger' is:**

A 'Stranger' can be a person you least suspect in a place you may least suspect to encounter your child. He/she can be anyone – familiar or otherwise – of either gender and of any race, age, or size. These deviants do not want to be caught. They plan and watch for opportunities. They can be anywhere from in the park to on the Internet.

## **“Educate your children...”**

### **Understand Sexual Predators:**

These people say they want to be 'romantic' with a child but this only means power and control, which can include violence and lead to murder. Some are extremely mentally ill. Others want to make money by taking pictures or making movies of children doing perverted sexual acts.

Some predators try to get a child away from other people by giving gifts, asking for help, or tricking them into believing a lie (For example: “Your mother is in the hospital and asked me to take you there.”). Some give food or drinks that are spiked with drugs. Some are able to fool parents into trusting them.



## GIVE HELPFUL INFORMATION TO THE POLICE:

- Vehicle license number and make and model of car.
- Direction of vehicle or suspect.
- Detailed description of suspect including age, height, gender, race, hair, clothing, identifying marks such as tatoos or scars, etc.

## USE THE RESOURCES OF YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Your Nassau County Police Department is available to answer questions you may have regarding this and other important topics.

### *Child Identification Packet:*

Creating and maintaining a “Child Identification Packet” that contains your child’s personal information will assist the police in the event your child is lost or missing. Contact your local police department to see if it can provide you with such a packet.

### **Lectures:**

To schedule a lecture on this and other topics, call the Nassau County Police Department’s Community Affairs office at 516-573-7360.

## CONTACTING YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Emergencies **911**

#### **FIRST PRECINCT**

900 Merrick Road, Baldwin, N.Y. 11510

**516-573-6100**

#### **SECOND PRECINCT**

7700 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury, N.Y. 11797

**516-573-6200**

#### **THIRD PRECINCT**

214 Hillside Avenue, Williston Park, N.Y. 11596

**516-573-6300**

#### **FOURTH PRECINCT**

1699 Broadway, Hewlett, N.Y. 11557

**516-573-6400**

#### **FIFTH PRECINCT**

1655 Dutch Broadway, Elmont, N.Y. 11003

**516-573-6500**

#### **SIXTH PRECINCT**

**516-573-6600**

100 Community Drive, Manhasset, N.Y. 11030

#### **SEVENTH PRECINCT**

3636 Merrick Road, Seaford, N.Y. 11783

**516-573-6700**

#### **EIGHTH PRECINCT**

286 Wantagh Avenue, Levittown, N.Y. 11756

**516-573-6800**

## ADVISE YOUR CHILD HOW TO...

### ***Deal With Abduction Situations Indoors In An Isolated Area! Tell Them:***

- “Remember that the predator’s fear makes him/her dangerous, so remain calm. Since each predator is different, see how he/she reacts to your crying or pleading. Tell him/her you want to go home.”
- “Study the room and any means of escape, such as objects that can be thrown through a window, any phone, computer... Look outside to see where you could hide. To distract and escape: throw a lamp, activate a smoke alarm, flood the room...”

### ***Deal With Abduction Situations Outside In An Isolated Area! Tell Them:***

- “Distract and escape.”

*Ideas:* Throw dirt in his/her face and run. While hiding, remain very still and quiet for a long time. Pick up and hold some rocks that can be thrown at him/her.



### ***Deal With Abduction Situations! If You Are Being Tied Up! Tell Them:***

- “If tape is being applied to your mouth, puff up your cheeks and tuck in your lips. This will make the tape looser when you relax your cheeks. Use saliva to wet the tape and then try to cut the tape with your teeth.”
- “If your waist is being tied up, inhale deeply to make your stomach bigger. This will keep rope or other binding material loose when you exhale.”

### ***Deal With Abduction Situations If You Are Being Hurt! Tell Them:***

- “Tell him/her you need to use the bathroom. Pretend you are sick. Tell him/her you need medication for a disease like AIDS or Hepatitis.”

### ***OVERALL SUGGESTION:***

- “Calmly tell him/her that you know he/she is a nice person and that you need to go home.”

## ADVISE YOUR CHILD HOW TO...

### ***Be Safe At Home! Tell Them:***

- “If you come home before a guardian, let the person know you arrived home safely.”
- “Keep all doors and windows locked and the alarm on.”
- “If a window is broken or a door is open when you arrive home, do not go in. Go to a neighbor you know or to a local store and call 911.”
- “If someone tries to break in, call 911 and follow the operator’s directions.”
- “If you have after-school plans, tell your guardian.”
- “Do not leave home without letting someone know where you are going. Call or leave a note with your whereabouts and phone number.”
- “When the doorbell rings, ask who it is and get permission from your guardian to open the door. If you are alone, do not tell the person and do not open the door.”
- “Never give personal information over the phone, email or instant messages.”
- “If you are touched, embarrassed or hurt by anyone, tell your guardian.”



## **“Always be aware of your surroundings...”**

### ***Be Safe While Walking! Tell Them:***

- “Always be aware of your surroundings and walk with a purpose and an ‘attitude’.”
- “Wear bright colored clothes after dark and carry a cell phone, whistle and flashlight. Day or night, choose highly trafficked areas and walk with a companion and/or a pet. Carry a personal alarm.”
- “Have your house key ready before walking up to the door. If you think you are being followed, turn or cross the street, walk more quickly, go into a store or up the front steps of a nearby house... If that’s not possible, run and scream. Find a safe place and call 911.”





## ADVISE YOUR CHILD HOW TO...

### *Prevent Abduction! Tell Them:*

- “Do not play in deserted areas such as empty playgrounds, construction sites or dumps.”
- “Stay close to your guardian in public spaces such as malls. If you become separated, talk to a security guard or go immediately into a store and tell someone at the counter you are lost and need help.”
- “If someone seems strange or if something feels peculiar, trust your feelings and go to a safe place.”
- “Never hitchhike.”
- “Never offer directions to a stranger. Do not move close to the person or car - even if they say they have something you might like to see such as a pet or a toy. This is a trick to get you closer to them.”

**“Do not play in deserted areas....”**

### *Respond To A Stranger’s Advances! Tell Them:*

- “Get away as soon as possible, refuse to listen, and then tell your parent, teacher or another trusted adult - immediately. Do not be embarrassed.”



## ADVISE YOUR CHILD HOW TO...

### *Deal With Abduction Situations On The Street! Tell Them:*

- “Remain calm.”
- “Do not enter any vehicle.”
- “Scream, “Police!” or “Help!” or “You’re not my mommy!”, etc.
- “Get the attention of anyone nearby.”
- “If a stranger is holding on to you, poke his/her eyes, pull his/her hair and even cause him/her to bleed. Fight back, bite, kick, run.  
**DROP, KICK AND ROLL AWAY.”**

### *Deal With Abduction Situations Inside The Predator’s Car! Tell Them That If They Are Overpowered to:*

- “Remain calm and get out if the car stops even if the abductor has a weapon.”
- “Do not put on a seatbelt.”
- “Consider fighting back and create an accident to bring attention to the car.”

*Ideas:* If the car stops in traffic, either jump out or put your foot on the gas pedal. If you are in the back, cover the predator’s eyes while he/she is driving. Scratch his/her eyes. Turn off the ignition, pull out the keys and run to safety.”



**“...stay calm...look for a way to escape.”**

### *Deal With Being Confined In The Trunk Of The Predator’s Car! Tell Them:*

- “Try to stay calm to look for a way to escape.”
- Ideas:* Feel around for a trunk release, usually close to where the trunk opens. Pull out the tail light wires using your legs to pry the wires. Try to locate tools such as the bar found behind the spare tire; break the tail light lenses and try to wave through the opening with your fingers or the bar to make other motorists aware.”