



Personal safety tips

Trust yourself. Your single most effective defense is your own judgment. Rely on it to choose what you think is the best response for you. Below are some options:

- run
- stall
- not resist
- negotiate
- verbally assert yourself
- scream to attract attention
- distract or divert the assailant
- physically resist—fight off the attacker
- call 911 if appropriate

Walking

- Plan and use the safest and most direct route.
- Choose well-lit streets at night.
- Stay alert to your surroundings; look confident and purposeful.
- Become familiar with businesses that are open late.
- If you feel uneasy, go directly to a place where there are other people.
- Walk with a friend if possible, particularly at night.
- Keep your money in a secure place close to your person.
- Carry your keys in your hand.

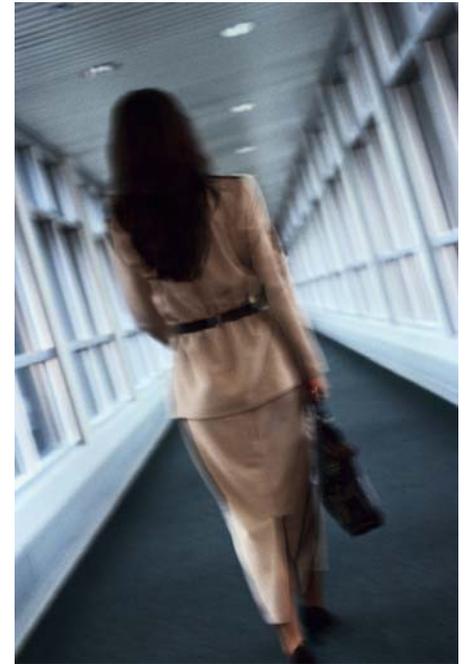
If you are being followed by someone in a car: Turn around and walk away. Try to obtain the license plate number and a description of the car.

If you are being followed by someone on foot: Turn around to let the person know you see them. Immediately cross the street and walk or run toward a place where there is likely to be other people.

In cases involving verbal harassment: Ignore it and walk away.

Your car

- Drive with car doors locked and windows closed.
- Keep your wallet, purse, and valuables out of view even when driving. Do not leave them next to you on the seat.
- If you see another motorist in trouble, do not stop. Call 911 for assistance.
- Park in well-lit areas. Look around before you get out of your car.
- Put valuables and packages in the trunk or out of sight before you arrive at your destination.
- Always lock the doors, no matter how soon you plan to return.
- When returning to your car, have the door key in hand. Look inside before you unlock the door and get in.
- If you are being followed while driving, go to the closest police or drive to an open business or gas station where there are other people. Do not drive home or pull over to the side of the street.



At home

- Do not open the door to anyone you do not know without verifying their identity.
- If someone wants to use your telephone, offer to make the call yourself while the person waits outside.
- Never let a stranger through a security entrance.
- Do not give any information to “wrong number” callers. Ask, “What number are you calling?”
- Never tell an unknown caller that you are home alone.
- Do not give information to people who call you.
- Hang up immediately if you receive threatening or harassing calls. Do not say anything. If the calls continue, keep a record of the date, time, and content of each call. Then notify the police and the phone company.



Protecting yourself

Be prepared to physically and psychologically protect yourself. A good way to prepare is to think ahead. Consider taking a personal safety workshop. There is no right or wrong way to react. Every situation is different. The best response depends on a combination of factors such as the location, the assailant, presence of weapons, your personal responses, etc.

Always evaluate your resources and options. Continue to assess the situation as it is occurring. If the first strategy chosen is not working, try another.

911 is the number to call for police response. Call to report a situation requiring a police officer at the scene, to report a crime in progress, or when you witness suspicious activity (Examples include alarms, shots fired, the sound of breaking glass, shouts for help, or an unfamiliar person carrying items from the house.)

Contact your crime prevention specialist for additional prevention information. Call 311 (or 612-673-3000) or see www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/police_outreach_safe-teams to locate your neighborhood crime prevention specialist.

For further crime prevention resources, please visit www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimeprevention/index.htm.



English: Attention. If you want help translating this information, call 612-673-3737
Spanish: Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700
Somali: Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500
Hmong: Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800
Sign Language: TTY 612-673-2626

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact the Minneapolis Police Department at 612-673-2912.