

# KEEPING KIDS SAFE: STREET SMARTS & SAFETY

Most crimes involving children are crimes of opportunity. Following these tips can minimize the chances of your child becoming a victim.

- Keep an up-to-date photo (both digital and hard copy) and a complete child ID kit on each child.
- Know where your children are at all times — know friends' names, addresses, phone numbers, screen names, and email addresses.
- Know your child's online habits (e.g., favorite websites, personal profiles, email addresses, and passwords).
- Help children understand who "strangers" are. Familiar faces (e.g., ice cream man or mail carrier) do not always register as strangers to small children.
- Never leave a child alone in a public place or allow a child to enter a public restroom alone.
- Accompany your child on activities like trick-or-treating or school fundraising.
- Never put a child's name on clothes or toys. Children are more likely to approach someone when called by name.
- Check references for babysitters and be wary of older friends.
- Discuss with your child how the police can help if they are in a frightening situation and how to get their help.
- Visit [www.nsopr.gov](http://www.nsopr.gov) AND [records.txdps.state.tx.us](http://records.txdps.state.tx.us) to check for registered sex offenders in your area.
- Call the police IMMEDIATELY if you cannot find your child. Fast action is critical.

**REQUEST A CHILD ID KIT AND SAFETY INFORMATION BY CONTACTING: SUPPORT@TCFTM.ORG OR 713.599.0235.**

We bring hope and healing to the missing and their families through crisis intervention, prevention, and community education.

Nothing is worse than losing a child.  
Stay calm, but allow others to help.  
Remember, YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

## FIND MY CHILD!

If you suspect your child is missing,  
**ACT QUICKLY.** Time is precious.  
Concentrate on remaining calm.

- **DIAL 9-1-1.** Give your name, exact location, and say clearly, “I want to report a missing child.” Ask that an officer come immediately.
- **SEARCH, BUT DO NOT TOUCH.** Look carefully under beds, in closets, sheds, pools, containers with lids, and behind doors that may close behind your child. Try to touch as little as possible so as not to disturb possible evidence or clues.
- **BE READY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.** List your child’s full birth name, nickname, and age. Compile parents’ names, addresses, home and work numbers, and email addresses.
- **BE SPECIFIC WHEN TALKING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.** Give the time and location that your child was last seen. Describe your search specifically. If your child was abducted in a car, identify its color and body style.
- **DESCRIBE YOUR CHILD IN GREAT DETAIL.** Have a recent photo of your child (digital is best) to give to law enforcement. Provide your child’s current height, weight, body build, hair color and length, eye color, visible birthmarks, and a description of any disabilities or medications. If you have a Child ID Kit, provide it. Police receive many false alarms so help them to really know your child as you do.
- **WHAT TO EXPECT FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT.** They will ask tough questions and search your child’s room. They may take some of your child’s possessions for fingerprinting or DNA analysis. Ask the police for their plan of action and contact them with questions or ideas that may aid in their search. Ask for the Agency Case Number and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) number. Ask that they give you frequent progress reports and what their next steps will be.
- **CONTACT TEXAS CENTER FOR THE MISSING (TCM).** TCM Staff are available 24/7 to support you during this time of crisis. Call us at 713.599.0235 or email us at [support@tcftm.org](mailto:support@tcftm.org).

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