

PERSONAL SAFETY



The odds of being victimized by crime while in a public places are low. However, your personal safety is at risk anytime you go out. Remember, criminals often plan crimes and look for the right opportunity and the easiest victim. Your best defense is to plan ahead. Being safer doesn't require changing your lifestyle, personality, wardrobe or to stop going out. Make safety a habit. Be alert to your surroundings. The Georgetown Police Department provides the following crime prevention guidelines to increase your personal safety and security.

At Home

- Have your key in hand when approaching the entryway
- Wait outside if anything looks unusual (i.e. open door or broken window)
- Give the hide-a-key to a trusted neighbor
- No personal identification on key rings
- Change the locks if you lose your house keys

Walking

- Avoid walking alone. Be confident & walk with purpose
- Choose busy, well-lit streets and avoid isolated areas, alleys and vacant lots
- Walk facing traffic to see approaching cars
- Earphones make you less able to sense potential danger
- Keep valuables in an inside pocket and hold your purse under your arm so they are harder to snatch

Driving

- Keep your car in good running order
- Plan your route in advance
- Drive with the doors locked and windows rolled up
- Carpooling is a safe alternative to driving alone
- Don't stop if another driver tries to force you off the road

Parking

- Choose well-lit parking areas
- Keep valuables and packages locked in the trunk.
- Always remove the keys and lock the doors
- Be alert in underground or enclosed parking garages
- If you carry packages, keep one hand free
- Check inside and around your car before unlocking the door

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)

- Memorize your personal identification number
- Have everything ready before arriving
- Be aware of people loitering and sitting in parked cars who may be watching customers transact business
- Never use an ATM after dark

Outdoor Activities

- Advise someone of your route before leaving
- Carry proper identification
- Vary your route and schedule so you are not predictable
- Avoid outdoor activities after dark
- Carry the necessary tools in case of an emergency
- Carry a personal alarm
- Be aware of occupied cars around you

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