



ROBBERY PREVENTION

→ HOW TO PREVENT YOURSELF FROM BECOMING A VICTIM OF A CRIME

On the Street

- Walk in groups whenever possible.
- Inform a family member or friend where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Stay in areas that are well-lit.
- Wear clothes and shoes that give you freedom of movement.
- Don't wear headphones, use cell phones, or send text messages.
- Never accept rides from strangers or pick up hitchhikers.
- Don't display expensive jewelry in public.
- If a person or situation makes you feel uncomfortable, avoid the person or leave.
- Become familiar with the neighborhoods in which you live and work. Have alternate escape routes planned.
- Learn the locations of police and fire stations, as well as stores that are open late. Be alert! Thieves use the element of surprise to accomplish their crime. You can prevent a robbery by being alert to your surroundings.

At Home

- Do not allow strangers into your home. If they ask for assistance, offer to call the police for them and never allow them inside.
- Don't "advertise" that you live alone.
- Report all suspicious people and activity to the police. Call 911 in emergencies only.
- Keep outdoor lights on at night.
- If you arrive home and there are signs that someone has been inside, do not go in. Leave immediately and call 911.
- If you are confronted by a robber, always follow instructions. Do not attempt to argue with your attacker.



On the Road

- Park in well-lit, open and observable areas.
- Be alert to people sitting in their cars.
- Enter and exit your car as quickly as possible, being sure to scan the area first and lock the doors as soon as possible.
- Do not argue or fight with a carjacker.
- Do not allow yourself to be put in a position where you could be kidnapped. Drop your keys or throw them away from the carjacker. When they go for the keys, escape as quickly as possible and run as far away as you can.

At the ATM

- Use machines that you are familiar with.
- Be aware of your surrounds. If anything or anyone seems suspicious, cancel your transaction and go to another ATM.
- When using an ATM after hours, make sure it is in a well-lit area.
- Never walk away from the ATM with cash in your hand. Secure the cash and bank card before walking away.



If confronted by a robber

- Stay calm.
- Comply with the robber's instructions. In most situations it is not wise or safe to fight.
- Call the police as soon as the robber leaves.
- Cooperate with police during the investigation and provide detailed descriptions of the attacker.

Additional Information

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines robbery as the taking of or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or the threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

The FBI's (UCR) Program defines **larceny-theft** as the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Examples are thefts of bicycles, motor vehicle parts and accessories, shoplifting, pocket-picking, or the stealing of any property or article that **is not taken by force and violence or by fraud**. Attempted larcenies are included. Embezzlement, confidence games, forgery, check fraud, etc., are excluded.

(Information updated March 2026)