

# Safety Tips For Teens

- Walk with a group when going to school, recreational events, and other activities.
- Don't hang around an empty school building or stay in the school yard when all your friends have left.
- If you feel threatened by someone outside after school, go back into the building and find a counselor, teacher, maintenance person, or office worker to help you.
- Walk in the middle of the sidewalk; avoid bushes and doorways.
- Notice and try to remember any places on your school-to-home route that you could go if you needed to get away from someone you feel threatened by. Stores, Police Stations, Service Stations, and all **SAFE PLACE SITES** serve as temporary places of safety.
- Always carry at least fifty cents in change to make phone calls in an emergency. Notice and try to remember the locations of public telephones along your school-to-home route.
- Don't show off money or valuable possessions. Keep them out of sight if possible.
- Don't wear obviously valuable jewelry, like gold chains, at school or out on the streets.
- Don't make a habit of talking about your money or other valuables you or your parents have at home. Even if you are telling a friend you trust, that person may tell someone less trustworthy.
- When you go out after school, at night, or on weekends, let your parents or some other adult know where you will be and when you expect to get back. If possible, give them a phone number where you can be reached.
- If you have a feeling that something is going to happen, trust your intuition. This can occur on the streets, at parties, in hallways, at home, etc.
- Do not hitchhike.
- Do not ask for or accept a ride home from a person you have just met.
- Do not invite people into your home unless you know them very well.
- Do not drive after you have been drinking.
- Do not ride with anyone else who has been drinking.
- Make an agreement with your parents that you will call them for a ride if you find yourself in a situation where you either have to ride with a person who has been drinking or you yourself have been drinking and must drive, or go to a **SAFE PLACE SITE**.
- Make an agreement with another relative or a friend that you will call them for assistance if your parents have been drinking and you need a ride.

**Never hesitate to use Safe Place. Either go to one of the many Safe Place sites in your area, or call the Youth In Need 24-hour emergency hotline:**

**636-946-3771**