

## KEEPING KIDS SAFE

### Checklist for Parents:

- Can your child recite their name, address and phone number?
- Does your child understand not to get into a car with a stranger?
- If you must send someone to pick up your child, do you have a secret code word that your child knows to ask for before getting into the car?
- Does your child know not to get into cars or go into the houses of neighbors they don't know very well? (Be sure to review a list of acceptable neighbors).
- Does your child know that if they are lost or in danger and can locate a pay phone they can dial 911 without needing money?
- Does your child know not to go into a public restroom alone?
- Does your child know to be as loud as possible if he or she is in danger?
- Does your child know that it is okay to say "no" to adults?
- Does your child know that it is okay to use physical violence, such as kicking, if he or she needs to protect themselves from harm?
- Does your child know to never exit an area (such as a store, the mall or the zoo), even if the person helping asks them to step outside?
- Does your child know to approach uniformed personnel if he or she is in danger?
- Does your child know the body parts that are unacceptable for others to touch?
- Does your child know to shout "NO" or "STOP" if someone touches him or her inappropriately?
- Does your child understand that even trusted people shouldn't ask him or her to do something that makes him or her uncomfortable?

## Other Important Tips:

- Never leave your child unattended in the car.
- Be sure to know your child's friends and their parents. Have a list with their phone numbers and addresses.
- Know the route your child takes from school to home.
- Know where your child is after school.
- Designate "safe" houses in your neighborhood where your child may go if he or she is being harassed or followed.
- Be involved with your child's after-school activities.
- Always carry a current photo of your child.
- Always observe what your child is wearing on a daily basis.
- Have a record of your child's fingerprints.
- Never print a child's name on clothing or use nametags in public.
- If your child seems uncomfortable and doesn't want to be with someone, find out why – pursue until you find the reason.
- Always perform a reference and background check on a new caregiver.
- Tell your child that if they ever get lost you will look for them for as long as it takes.