

## How to Avoid Becoming a Victim of Kidnapping & Abduction

### :: First Steps

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- You are vulnerable anytime your time and place are predictable. Vary your routine by changing the times and routes to and from work and home. Ensure that this is practiced by other members of the household, especially children.
- Also make sure to vary the length of time to and from work and home. Do so by a factor longer than the perpetrators can comfortably stay in place (more than 10-15 minutes)
- Avoid wearing clothing or accessories (including jewelry) that might indicate wealth or identify you as a foreigner or identifies you as an employee of a wealthy domestic or foreign company.
- Maintain constant awareness of your surroundings and avoid known hotspots.
- Avoid traveling alone, if possible. Remember there is safety in numbers.
- Seek advice from trusted locals as to safe and unsafe areas of the location both by day and at night. Avoid dimly-lit areas. Walk purposely and use the centre of the pavement, thus avoiding unlit doorways and being too close to the roadway.
- Avoid using public transportation. The security situation in regards to public transportation varies by destination. If you must use public transportation, practice extreme caution.
- Use reputable, licensed taxi companies only. Take note of the license plate number. If the taxi driver insists that your company sent them to pick you up, contact your employer directly to confirm.
- A privately owned car generally offers the best security. Avoid luxury or ostentatious cars. Keep your automobile in good repair and the gas tank at least half full. In some cases, having a trained and vetted driver may be the best option. However, in certain countries where driving conditions are chaotic and the reaction of other motorists and law enforcement officer unpredictable it is better to use a chauffeur-driven car from a reputable company.
- Know the locations of your embassy and consulate offices.

- Be aware of the street environment and pay attention to suspicious or erratic behavior in strangers. If such behavior is observed, seek a safer location by entering a store or bank, or simply cross the street.
  - Do not answer your hotel room door until you positively confirm who is on the other side. Look out the peephole, or call the front desk to confirm the visitor.
  - Once your room has been made up leave the do not disturb sign on the door, leave the lights and the television or radio on.
  - Secure all personal items. Especially money, passports, travel documents and laptops.
  - Keep personal, work and travel information on a strictly need-to-know basis.
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**For More Information**

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