

# WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



## STRANGER AWARENESS INFORMATION

A stranger is anyone you don't know. Always be cautious and know how to respond to strangers to keep you safe from potentially dangerous situations. Review the tips below with your parent or trusted adult to help prepare yourself.

- Always make sure a trusted adult knows where you are going and when you'll be back.
- Always maintain a safe distance from strangers, their vehicles, or their homes.
- Be aware strangers may use candy/sweets, animals, balloons, flashy clothes, technology, toys, or anything enticing to lure you near them or their vehicle.
- There is safety in numbers! Walk with a friend, a trusted adult, or a group when you can.
- Never go anywhere with people you don't know or don't trust.
- Never make plans to meet in person with someone you have only met online.

## What do you do if a stranger approaches you?

- Keep calm
- Keep distance or make distance
- Look for a safe route out
- If the stranger continues to approach yell, "NO! I don't know you!" and RUN
- If they are in a vehicle, run in the opposite direction or through areas they can't follow
- Continue to yell and make noise as you run to a trusted adult, a Safe Stranger, or a Safe Space.

## Who is a Safe Stranger?

A Safe Stranger is someone you don't know but someone you still know you can trust. A few safe strangers you may recognize include:

- Sheriff's Deputies or Police Officers
- Firefighters
- Paramedics
- School Staff, including bus drivers, teachers, and office personnel
- Salesclerks at a store

## What is Safe Space?

A Safe Space is a public place with people. Examples include:

- A school (if it's open and people are there)
- Sports courts or fields with games happening
- Restaurants
- Cafés
- Stores
- Playgrounds
- Anywhere you can find a Safe Stranger

If someone makes you uncomfortable for any reason, tell a trusted adult right away and report what happened to you. To report: **Call 911 if you are in immediate danger** or call non-emergency, 503-629-0111, once you are completely safe.