

KEEP IT SAFE: Safety Tips

CITIZENS VS. CRIME

Crime and the fear of crime create special problems in our community. The days of leaving your doors unlocked have been replaced by days of the deadbolt lock. **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A VICTIM!** You can learn how to protect yourself from crime by following these simple, commonsense suggestions. There are no guarantees in crime prevention, however, the tips listed below are a good start. Share these tips with your neighbors and friends, to make it tough for criminals to work in your neighborhood.

HOME SAFETY TIPS

- Never open your door automatically. Install and use a peephole.
- Lock your doors and windows.
- Vary your daily routine.
- Use "Neighbor Watch" to keep an eye on your neighborhood.
- Don't leave notes on the door when going out.
- Leave lights on when going out at night; use a timer to turn lights on and off when you are away for an extended period.
- Notify neighbors and the police when going away on a trip.
- When you are away remember to cancel deliveries such as newspapers and arrange for someone - a neighbor's child, perhaps - to mow the lawn if need be. Arrange for your mail to be held by the Post Office, or ask a neighbor to collect it for you.
- Be wary of unsolicited offers to make repairs to your home. Deal only with reputable businesses.
- Keep an inventory with serial numbers and photographs of re-saleable appliances, antiques and furniture. Leave copies in a safe place.
- Don't hesitate to report crime or suspicious activities.
- Install deadbolt locks on all your doors.
- Keep your home well lit at night, inside and out; keep curtains closed.

- Ask for proper identification from delivery persons or strangers.
- If a stranger asks to use your telephone, offer to place the call for him or her yourself.
- Never let a stranger into your home.
- Do not leave notes on your door when you are gone.
- Do not hide your keys under the mat or in other conspicuous places.
- Never give out information over the phone indicating you are alone or that you won't be home at a certain time.
- If you arrive at home and suspect a stranger may be inside, **DON'T GO IN.** Leave quietly and call 911 to report the crime.

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- If you are attacked on the street, make as much noise as possible by calling for help or blowing a whistle. Do not pursue your attacker. Call 911 and report the crime as soon as possible.
- Avoid walking alone at night. Try to have a friend accompany you in high risk areas . . . even during the daytime.
- Avoid carrying weapons . . . they may be used against you.
- Always plan your route and stay alert to your surroundings. Walk confidently.
- Have a companion accompany you.
- Stay away from buildings and doorways; walk in well-lighted areas.
- Have your key ready when approaching your front door.
- Don't dangle your purse away from your body. (Twelve percent of all crimes against the elderly are purse snatchings and street robberies.)
- Don't carry large, bulky shoulder bags; carry only what you need. Better yet, sew a small pocket inside your jacket or coat. If you don't have a purse, no one will try to snatch it.

CAR SAFETY TIPS

- Always keep your car doors locked, whether you are in or out of your car.

**For more information visit our website at
www.79-DistrictAttorney-tx.org**

KEEP IT SAFE: Safety Tips

Keep your gas tank full and your engine properly maintained to avoid breakdowns.

- If your car breaks down, pull over to the right as far as possible, raise the hood, and wait **INSIDE** the car for help. Avoid getting out of the car and making yourself a target before police arrive.
- At stop signs and traffic lights, keep the car in gear.
- Travel well-lit and busy streets. Plan your route.
- Don't leave your purse on the seat beside you; put it on the floor, where it is more difficult for someone to grab it.
- Lock bundles or bags in the trunk. If interesting packages are out of sight, a thief will be less tempted to break in to steal them.
- When returning to your car, check the front and back seat before entering.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.

GENERAL SAFETY PRINCIPLES

1. Instincts matter– When it comes to your personal protection and self-defense, follow your instincts. If a situation or person makes you feel uneasy or, if something, ANYTHING, doesn't "feel" right, believe in your feelings and act on them.
2. Use your eyes & ears to stay alert- Look for potential trouble spots such as alleys, doorways, corners and suspicious figures or actions.
3. Don't be a sitting duck– after shopping, eating, or working, **DON'T** sit in your car to balance your checkbook, look through the store receipt, or count your money. As soon as you get in your car, lock the doors and leave.
4. Take Care, Not Chances– don't fall for the "help me" ploy used by many predators. The criminal may use a ploy such as stopping to ask for directions or to ask for help in finding their lost child/pet– what they really want is to get your defenses down so that they can attack you

when you least expect it. If they need help, call the authorities to get it for them.

5. Stay Calm– One of your biggest enemies in a self-defense situation, besides your attacker(s), is panic. Knowing 1,000 self defense techniques won't help you if you are too scared to remember them.
6. Safety zone– create and maintain a personal space to keep potential attackers at a distance that is safe for you.

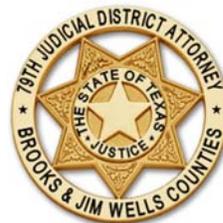
ABOUT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Carlos Omar Garcia, 79th Judicial District Attorney.

Carlos was born and raised in Alice with extended family ties in Jim Wells, Brooks, and Duval Counties. Carlos began his distinguished prosecutorial career in 1997. Before being elected as District Attorney, Carlos worked an Assistant District Attorney for Kleberg and Kenedy Counties (2008-2012) and the 79th Judicial District Attorney's Office for Brooks & Jim Wells Counties (1997-2008). In addition to his service as a felony prosecutor, Carlos has also served as an Assistant County Attorney for Brooks, Jim Wells, and Kleberg Counties.

In addition to his background as a prosecutor, Carlos is a certified martial arts/self defense instructor, certified NRA *Refuse to Be a Victim* instructor, and NRA Pistol Instructor.

COMPLIMENTS OF



CARLOS OMAR GARCIA 79th JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JIM WELLS COUNTY

P.O. Box 3157
Alice, Texas 78333
(361)668-5716
Fax (361)668-9974

BROOKS COUNTY

P.O. Box 283
Falfurrias, Texas 78355
(361)325-5604, Ext. 259
Fax (361)325-2993

**For more information visit our website at
www.79-DistrictAttorney-tx.org**