

By taking a moment to read these safety tips, we hope you can better protect yourself and your loved ones. Always stay alert, and in the event of an emergency, call 911.

*“Safety is not the absence of danger but the presence of protection.”*

– Author Unknown



This was developed by the Michigan State Police,  
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Personal Safety

# A GUIDE FOR REFUGEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

from the Michigan State Police



## How can I protect myself?

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Pay attention to the people around you.
- Tell family members or friends where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Have an escape plan.
- Trust your instincts.



## If I become a victim, what should I do?

- Contact law enforcement right away.
- File a police report.
- If your credit or debit cards were stolen, contact your financial institution.
  - » Alert your bank of check threats and cancel any credit or debit cards.
- Notify the Federal Trade Commission at [identitytheft.gov](https://www.ftc.gov).
  - » Place an alert on your credit information if you think your identity might be compromised.
- Protect your financial documents and account information/passwords.

### How can I report a crime to the police?



- Use any phone to call 911 for an emergency or in-progress crime.
  - » Even an unactivated phone or one without minutes will work.

## How can I shop safely?

- Avoid shopping alone when possible.
- Park in well-lit areas with other people around.
- Keep packages in the trunk of your car or covered by a blanket—not in plain view.
- Always lock your vehicle.
- Carry your purse or bag close to your body.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash.
- Have your keys in hand before walking back to your vehicle.

