



# Preventing Abductions

Whenever the evening news brings the story of a kidnapped child or teen, the terrifying prospect of abduction fills the minds of parents. One of the challenges of being a parent is teaching your kids to be cautious without filling them with fear or anxiety. Although some dangers do exist, you lessen the chances that your child will be abducted.

- Make [online safety](#) a priority. The Internet is a great tool, but it's also a place for predators to stalk kids. Be aware of your kids' Internet activity and remind them never to give out personal information. Avoid posting identifying information or photos of your kids online.
- Set boundaries about the places your kids go. Supervise them in places like malls, movie theaters, parks, public bathrooms, or while fundraising door to door.
- Never leave kids alone in a car, even for a minute.
- Choose caregivers — [babysitters](#), and childcare providers — carefully and check their references. [If you've arranged for someone to pick up your kids from school or day care, discuss the arrangements beforehand with your kids and with the school or childcare center.](#)
- Avoid dressing your kids in clothing with their names on it — children tend to trust adults who know their names.