



**BE “STREETWISE” –
DO NOT BECOME A
VICTIM OF STREET
ROBBERY**

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Purpose

Your safe-being and security is of paramount concern to the Toronto Police Service. The intent of this pamphlet is to make teenagers aware that they are potential targets for street robbers and suggest some measures that can be taken to prevent those types of robberies. In the event of a robbery this pamphlet will provide a course of action that will reduce the risk of personal injury and increase the potential of bringing the person(s) to justice.

1. Tell others where you are going and when you are expected to return.

2. Don't walk alone, especially after dark.

3. Follow the safest route possible. Avoid short cuts and deserted areas; try to keep to well-lit busy streets after dark. Walk on the side of the street where you can best see around you.

4. Avoid parks and green spaces after dark.

5. Walk with a purpose and be alert and aware of your surroundings. Avoid using personal stereos or radios – you might not hear trouble approaching.

6. Don't flash your cash, iPods, mobile phones or other valuables. Keep their use discreet and put them away after use. Don't carry them or show them in an obvious manner.

7. If you feel threatened or fearful from strangers while outside, remember that all 911 calls are free of charge and can be dialed from any telephone booth.

8. If being followed, cross the street and go directly to the nearest well lit populated area. If still being followed turn and in a loud voice say, “stop following me.” Go to an occupied home or stop a taxi and ask the driver to call the police. If there are no lit homes, never be afraid to



draw attention to yourself. Yelling and screaming are appropriate reactions if you feel at risk. Run to an unlit occupied home, for example a home with a parked car in the driveway and wake up the occupants and ask them to call the police.

9. Do not delay in calling the police, even if the robber has threatened you; hesitate only long enough to ensure your safety, then call immediately. The faster the police are able to respond, the better the chances the robber(s) will be arrested.

10. If you are robbed, the following information is very important to the police:

- direction of travel;
- time of robbery;
- whether or not the suspect(s) were armed;
- number of suspects involved;
- if a vehicle was used, a description of the vehicle and direction of travel if known; and
- description of suspect(s).

11. Ask any witnesses to wait until the police arrive. Get their names and addresses if they can not stay.

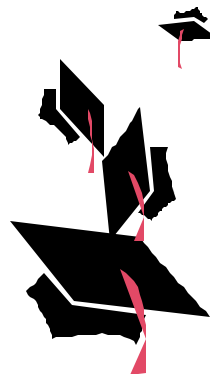
12. If involved in a street-type robbery, don't argue, don't fight and don't use weapons. Robbers are unpredictable and resistance in any form may escalate the level of violence.

13. Memorize suspect(s) physical and clothing descriptions, especially tattoos, scars and other prominent features.

14. When trying to determine age, height, weight and appearance, compare them to yourself or people that you know.

15. If a weapon is used, focus your attention on size, type and its colour.

16. Your safety is paramount, never chase or follow a robber.



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To Prevent Crime**