Be Prepared with AAA Michigan Child Safety Identification

AAA Michigan recommends parents have a Child ID card for each of their children and update it at least once a year. The card should contain the child’s name, birthdate, height, weight, and other distinguishing characteristics, as well as a recent photo.

Child’s Name: ____________________
Birthdate: ________________________
Height: __________________________
Weight: __________________________
Birthmarks: ______________________
Scars: ____________________________
Eye Color: ________________________
Hair Color: ________________________

Child Safety Identification is offered by AAA Michigan at several branch offices and also at various community activities. Parents receive a free Child ID card containing their child’s fingerprints, photo and personal information that could save precious time in locating a child should they become lost. For specific locations offering the AAA Michigan Child ID program, check the “At The Branches” section of Michigan Living magazine.

Notify Police Immediately

If a child abduction or personal violation occurs or is suspected, parents or anyone else concerned must call the police at once. The following should be reported:

1. **Location** of the incident – give major crossroads or landmarks.
2. **Child’s sex**, age, height, weight, race, hair color, description of clothing and any distinguishing marks.
3. **Suspect’s sex**, age, height, weight, race, hair color, description of clothing and any distinguishing marks.
4. **Vehicle’s** color, make, type and license number.

“Be careful who you trust!”

For information or additional pamphlets concerning stranger awareness call AAA Michigan Community Safety Services
(313) 336-1413 or 1-800-646-4222
communitysafety@aaamichigan.com
Introduction

Keeping children safe is important to parents and all concerned adults. That’s why AAA Michigan is committed to helping children understand and avoid the potential dangers of being in public without an adult. It is important that youngsters realize they cannot trust everyone. Not all people are good, and some might harm them. Yet, it is also important that children not become so afraid that they cannot function normally. This brochure gives you basic information to help keep children safe when they’re not with adults.

Who is a Stranger?

It’s difficult to tell children about the dangers of people they do not know and trust very well. The term “stranger” can be confusing because anyone can be dangerous. In some cases, even someone who knows the child may be a potential risk. **Children must be taught that anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable should be avoided just like a stranger.**

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**Personal Child Safety Rules**

1. Do not get into a vehicle with anyone, even someone you know, unless your parents or guardian give permission.
2. Do not walk long distances or go into strange areas without your parent’s permission.
3. Never go away from your house by yourself; take a companion.
4. Do not accept help or a gift from someone you do not know.
5. Always tell your parents, sitter or guardian where you are going.
6. Do not change your plans without your parent’s permission.

**Personal Child Safety Tips**

1. If you lose your parent in a public place, such as a store, shopping mall or amusement park, do not wander around looking for your mother or father. Go immediately to a check-out counter, the security office or lost-and-found desk and ask for help.
2. If someone tries to take you somewhere, run away. Scream, “HELP! This person is trying to take me away,” or “HELP! This person is not my father (or mother).”
3. Say “NO!” to anyone who tries to take you anywhere, touch you or makes you uncomfortable.

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**Be Specific**

Clear and precise instructions should be used instead of vague warnings against “strangers.” Children should be told that no one except their parents or a doctor may touch their bodies. Parents know their childrens’ personalities and habits best, and should take this into consideration when providing guidance.

**Teach the Rules**

It is essential that children learn personal safety. They should know what to do and where to go if they feel in danger. Running away and screaming are good, but these must be put in perspective by parents. Please take time to teach the safety rules to your children.

**Be Committed**

Keeping children safe when they are not with adults depends upon parents’ commitment to discussing the potential dangers with children. A basic rule in teaching stranger awareness is for parents to strive for a loving and trusting relationship in which youngsters will not be afraid to confide in them. Remember, it is vital that they learn, “Be Careful Who You Trust.”