

Child safety is much different than it was in the “never talk to strangers” days. That message does not resonate in a time when children are used to communicating with people online they label as “friends.” Statistically there has been a decrease in what are described as “stereotypical” abductions and they have been on the decline for years. That doesn’t mean parents and guardians should stop being vigilant when their children are out and about. What it does mean is there are risks to children that involve people who have access and contact with them. The danger to children is greater from someone you or they know versus a random, faceless stranger. It’s time to go beyond that message and teach children how to recognize and avoid potentially dangerous and risky situations. Children’s ability to distinguish between “good” and “bad” people is limited. Their ability to learn some basic rules is not.

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### **PBSO CONNECT PROTECT PALM BEACH COUNTY**

[www.pbso.org/connect-protect-palm-beach-county](http://www.pbso.org/connect-protect-palm-beach-county).  
Download the app to connect with PBSO when someone is in need of help during a catastrophe, or report any suspicious activity.

### **PBSO SEX PREDATOR/OFFENDER TRACKING**

[www.offenderwatch.com](http://www.offenderwatch.com). Register to receive notifications.

### **PBSO CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM**

[www.pbso.org/services/community-services/crime-prevention/crime-prevention-programs/child-id](http://www.pbso.org/services/community-services/crime-prevention/crime-prevention-programs/child-id).  
Contact 561-688-4853 to learn more about this free Safety ID Program for children 18 months-14 years.

### **PBSO SOCIAL MEDIA**



**PalmBeachCountySheriff**



**@PBCountySheriff**



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Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
Ric L. Bradshaw, Sheriff

# CHILD SAFETY





## TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

- Their full name, address, telephone numbers, and how and when to dial 911.
- About the tricks someone may use to entice them and how to say NO and get away. Getting away is more important than being polite.
- To talk to you or another trusted adult if anyone makes them feel sad, scared, or uncomfortable.
- Who they can seek out if you're not there and they need help-uniformed law enforcement officer, store clerk, or mother with children.
- To do everything in their power to get away from anyone who is trying to take them by yelling, kicking, screaming, or attracting attention.
- To ask first before going anywhere or doing anything; that goes for older children, too.
- To stay with a group or friend when they're out and about.
- To never approach or get into a vehicle with someone you haven't approved.
- Not to reveal personal information to people they do not know and trust, both in the real world and online.
- Through practicing safety scenarios with them to see how they would react in different situations.

## PREPARE YOURSELF

- Keep a current photo of your child on your cell phone.
- Know your children's social media accounts and monitor their activity online.
- Know your children's friends and families, including names and cell phone numbers.
- By understanding social media and being involved in your children's school and extracurricular activities.
- Do your due diligence on anyone who has contact or access to your children. Utilize sex offender registries and other search capabilities you have, including the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Sexual Offender and Predator System, <https://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/>.
- Keep the lines of communication open with your kids; if they don't feel they can talk to you, they'll find someone else.
- If your child discloses someone has hurt them or made them feel uncomfortable, keep calm and be reassuring and supportive to your child.
- Seek the appropriate services and help for your child.
- If your child is missing and you've tried to locate them through friends and known places they like to go, contact law enforcement and report them missing. There is NO waiting period.

## ACT QUICKLY

- Provide any information you have about friends, social media, and anyone/anything that may help locate your child.
- Be forthcoming with law enforcement about any family dynamics or issues that may have occurred. Withholding information may impede the recovery of your child.
- Allow access to any technology like computers, cell phones, tablets, and gaming systems that may have information about your child's contacts and activities.
- Be proactive-go to places you know your child frequents like shopping centers, parks, athletic facilities, clubs, etc.
- Coordinate with law enforcement to distribute missing child flyers around the neighborhood with a message that you want your child to come home.
- Stay in touch with law enforcement and provide any new information about your child.
- If your child returns on their own, let law enforcement know.

