

CRIME PREVENTION

Burglary Prevention

Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave or go to bed.
Leave lights on when you go out.
Keep your garage door closed and locked.
Don't allow daily deliveries to accumulate.
Arrange to have your lawn cut in summer /driveway shoveled in winter while you are away.
Never leave keys in obvious "hiding places" (in planters, under door mats and in mailboxes.)
Keep a detailed list of valuables and store the list outside of your home.
Be a good neighbor - If you notice anything suspicious contact the Niskayuna Police at once.
Record the serial numbers of other valuable possessions for future reference with a video camera to inventory personal items.
Store the tape away from the home or business (safe deposit box). The tape will also be valuable for insurance purposes in case of a fire.

For additional prevention and deterrence information for home security, please refer to the following link:

[Home Security Tips](#)

Tips for Protecting Your Children:

For Parents:

Know where your kids are at all times.
Know your children's friends and where they live.
Avoid dressing children in clothing, which displays their name.
Make it a habit to know what your child is wearing every day.
Be alert for teens or adults who pay an unusual amount of attention to your child or give inappropriate or expensive gifts.
Be sensitive to changes in your child's behavior. These are signs. Sit them down and discuss what is causing the change.

For Kids:

Teach your children to trust their senses and that they have the right to what they sense is wrong.
When separated in a public place a child should go directly to an employee or clerk at a desk and ask for help. Young children shouldn't wander around looking for parents.
Teach your child the definition of stranger: anyone he or she doesn't know. Children often think of "strangers" as slovenly or sneaky-looking, causing them to accept clean-cut, but potentially dangerous strangers.
Adults rarely ask children for directions or help; and a child should never approach or get in the car of a stranger.

Personal Protection for Women

Remember these tips when in public places like shopping malls and stores:

Walk in pairs.

When possible don't walk alone.

When walking to your car:

Have your keys in your hand.

Have a small flashlight on your key chain.

Look in your car prior to entering it.

Be aware of your surroundings. Check for persons following you.

Never leave a store or mall with an unknown person. A tactic used by a perpetrator to get a woman out of the mall is to tell her about a car accident involving her vehicle in the parking lot.

When in doubt, call the police or contact a mall security officer

Automated Teller Machine (ATM) Safety

Remember to prevent robbery while using an ATM, consider the following tips:

Have your card out prior to leaving your vehicle.

Look around the area before exiting your vehicle. If suspicious persons are spotted, use another machine.

Choose ATMs that are well lit and visible to the street.

Consider using other machines, which are located inside supermarkets or other visible areas.

Put your money away quickly.

Look around again as you leave the ATM and approach your vehicle.

Never write your pin number on your card, on the sleeve the card is carried in, or anywhere else in your wallet.

What to do if You Are the Victim of a Crime

Assault and Harassment

Any time a person is involved in a confrontation, emotions run high. Seek a phone and contact the Police Department immediately. Safety and medical attention to injuries sustained are the first priority. If you would like to contact the Police Department about pressing charges for the injuries you have sustained, remember the following points.

Contact the police station to speak to an officer (if officers were not present when incident occurred.)

Keep any forms given to you when you were treated at an emergency room department or doctor's office. These will be important documentation in case of injuries.

Once a report has been filed you may contact the Records Department at the Niskayuna Police Department at 518-386-3185 from 9am to 5pm to obtain a copy. (Mon-Fri.)

See the instructions below for obtaining an order of protection if it is needed.

Aggravated Harassment

Aggravated Harassment is the penal law term for crimes, which use electronic methods to annoy, alarm, or harass another. The most common form of Aggravated Harassment is an annoying phone call. Most annoying or threatening phone calls do not turn to violence. Many are random pranks. If you are concerned about these phone calls there are several steps you can take to increase the chance of apprehending the person making the calls. These include:

Keep a log of the date, time and brief content of the calls.

Use the *57 feature if it is available (there is a cost to use this feature) *69 will call that person back but will not provide any evidence of where the calls originated from. It also could cause a confrontation with the caller.

Contact the NYNEX annoyance bureau (890-6200) to report the problem and receive additional advice. Save any answering machine tapes with the suspect's calls on it.

You may contact the Police Department any time you are concerned or feel threatened at 374-3159.

Following the instructions above will help achieve a quick resolution to your problem.

Crimes Involving Theft (larceny, burglary)

If your home or office has been broken into avoid touching anything that may have fingerprints and contact the police immediately. This may preserve crucial evidence.

If you are not sure whether it is safe to enter after a theft (the perpetrator may still be present) go to a safe place and contact the Police Department immediately.

Compile a detailed list of all items stolen. Include serial numbers when available.

Notify banks and credit card companies if checks, credit cards, or ATM cards are stolen.