

**Prevent  
Being A Victim  
of Crime**



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Butler County Prosecutor

*1 out of 2 people will be  
exposed to, or become a  
victim of crime...*

***IF THE PREDATOR  
HAS A GUN – RUN!***

Criminals only hit a running target 4 in 100 times. And even then, it most likely will not be a vital organ. Don't run away in a straight line - zig zag if you can.

***DON'T SIT IN YOUR CAR AFTER  
SHOPPING, EATING, WORKING, ETC.***

When you get in the car, lock the doors and drive away! Sitting in your car is the perfect opportunity to become a victim. Always be looking around while quickly unlocking your car and getting inside.

***AVOID BREAKDOWNS***

*Keep your car in good working order.  
But, should you have a breakdown –*

Lock your doors and use a cell phone to call for help. Know where you are.

Keep a blanket, warm clothes, boots and flashlight for emergencies.

If on a desolate road: walk away from your car and hide in the bushes, or somewhere away from your vehicle - don't stay in your car.

***ALWAYS TAKE THE ELEVATOR  
INSTEAD OF STAIRS***

If someone suspicious enters an elevator, get off. If you feel uneasy about someone who is waiting for the elevator with you, walk away and return later. Be cautious before walking down isolated hallways or before entering restrooms in areas that are not busy.

***CARRY A CELL PHONE***

Have important numbers programmed. When leaving home make sure phone is charged up.

## Butler County Prosecutor's Office Victim/Witness



Prosecutor Robin Piper with members of the  
Victim Witness Division.

### ***WHY WE ARE EASY TARGETS FOR VIOLENCE***

1. *Lack of Awareness* → **ALWAYS** know where you are and be aware of everything going on around you. If you know you are going to be alone (working late, jogging, hiking, etc.) carry mace readily at hand.
2. *Body Language* → **KEEP** your head up, swing your arms, stand up straight. Don't stare, but look at other people. Act confident, not aggressive, be polite, not inviting.
3. *Wrong Place & Time* → **DON'T** go into bad neighborhoods, and beware of parking lots. Don't be afraid, but be conscious of hiding places (i.e. bushes, shadows, in and under cars, etc.)
4. *Lack of Imagination* → **ACT** out scenarios in your mind and determine the best way to react. Imagine the possibilities for things to go wrong but also imagine how to resolve all dilemmas. Seeing things in your mind helps if you have to take action later.

## ***IF YOU ARE BEING FOLLOWED***

### **WHILE WALKING: RUN!**

Scream "FIRE" and not "HELP" - people are reluctant to "HELP", BUT "FIRE" draws attention.

Find an obstacle (a parked car) to run around, like Ring-Around-the-Rosie. It may sound silly, but it can work!

Get under a car (but be prepared to do it quickly).

### **WHILE IN YOUR CAR:**

If you feel unsafe when you reach your destination, do not get out of your car. Drive to a safe place. Be in the habit of locking your doors.

If you think someone is following you, don't drive home. Drive to the nearest police or fire station, or a 24-hour business and ask for help.

## ***REACT IMMEDIATELY!***

**USE PHYSICAL DEFENSES** - The eyes, neck and knees are the most vulnerable part of the body (be forceful when striking - you may only get one chance)!

Your elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you are close enough to use it, do!

If you are thrown into the trunk of a car, kick out the back tail lights and stick your arm out of the hole and start waving.

## ***KEEP YOUR DISTANCE when walking by strangers on the street or in dark areas***

Train yourself to observe descriptions of people and vehicles for later identification if necessary. Be observant.

## ***ALWAYS STAY ALERT AND AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS!***



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*Dear Fellow Citizen:*

*There are few things worse than the devastation that can come from senseless acts of violence. We must do everything possible to minimize the risk of harm to ourselves, our friends and our families.*

*I hope this material is informative, but I pray you never have to use it. We must arm ourselves with knowledge and be prepared - just in case.*

*Be Safe,*

Robin N. Piper  
Prosecutor



Nancy and Robin  
Sera and Christopher



## IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF CRIME

- ◆ Always call the police immediately.
- ◆ Get an accurate description of the attacker (sex, hair, clothing, unusual features) and vehicle involved.
- ◆ Call a Victims Assistance Service, or seek professional help to deal with emotional trauma.

## RESOURCE GUIDE

*Butler County*

### **Butler County Prosecutor's Office**

Victim/Witness Division	887-3447
Juvenile Victim/Witness	887-5599
Child Assault Division	785-5190

### **Counseling Services**

Butler County Mental Health	896-7887
Catholic Social Services	863-6129
LifeSpan (formerly Family Services)	867-7545
Community Crisis Center	523-4146

### **Other Victims Assistance Programs**

Legal Assistance	894-7336
Human Services	887-4000
YWCA Protective Shelter	863-7099
Rape Crisis	523-4146
Child Abuse Hotline	868-0888
Victim's United	523-6928