

TIPS FOR A SAFER HOLIDAY SEASON



WHEN ARRIVING AT YOUR HOLIDAY DESTINATION, PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING TIPS:

- 1 Before embarking on your holiday, take the time to teach your children their own names, as well as their parent's names and mobile numbers. **DO NOT** share your holiday plans with anyone on social networks such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
- 2 Teach your children the 'BUDDY SYSTEM', which is always to take a friend with them - don't go anywhere alone. This way, they can help each other when they are in trouble.
- 3 Create an exclusive family holiday password, and always ensure you pick your own children up. If for any reason you have to send someone to pick them up, the person should know the password, otherwise your children should not go with them as they then know that you have not sent the person to pick them up.
- 4 Make sure you know where the police station and hospital is for emergencies, and that your child also knows in case of an emergency. Make an effort to also ask locals which areas to avoid.
- 5 Always keep a recent photograph of your child with you, especially if you are in an unfamiliar place like a holiday destination. Should you have an emergency situation you have the photograph ready.
- 6 If you suspect a child or person is missing, please report it immediately to the nearest police station, so action can be taken. There is **NO** waiting period to report a missing person. **DO NOT** WAIT 24 HOURS to report your child missing, especially during the holiday season.
- 7 Even though the holidays are a time for relaxing, make an effort to familiarise yourself with your surroundings and know where your child is at all times, and whom they are with. Teach them to not respond or take anything from a person they do not know.
- 8 Be wary of 'new' friends - often Human Trafficking recruitment is done by other Human Trafficked victims coerced into trapping new victims. Children should never play alone in the streets, on the beach or alone in the front yard without adult supervision - it is simply just too dangerous.
- 9 Teach your children that they should never go with people they do not trust or accept lifts from strangers, even if it's a harmless lift to the local beach, the movies or to a shopping center.
- 10 Going to shopping malls over the holiday period can be a nightmare. Dress your child in brightly coloured clothes to make it easier to spot them, and be sure to remember what they are wearing. **ALWAYS** accompany your children to the bathrooms, and never let them go alone.
- 11 Talk to your kids before a family outing. Make a rule that you must always be able to see them and they must always be able to see you. With older children, agree on a designated 'meeting place' ahead of time, in case you become separated for any reason - this is then where they must meet you.
- 12 Before heading out to the beach, a play park, a shopping mall or any public place that's going to be crowded, speak to your children about the ground rules; no running off, stay in sight, don't swim on your own and definitely no talking to or walking off with strangers. Make sure that you your children have memorised your mobile number.
- 13 Don't treat public facilities as a 'convenient babysitter'. Do not leave your children alone at the beach, video arcades, movie theaters, play areas, or other public places. Predators are known to look for unsupervised kids.
- 14 When you get to the beach or any public place, find out where the nearest information desk is and make sure you tell your children that that will be the common meeting spot if they lost. You can make the meeting spot at the lifeguard station, or anywhere that's easily visible. Make sure you instruct your child to not approach just any adult for help, but to wait at the designated meeting spot until you or a family member gets there - and to only go with those who know the exclusive family holiday password.

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