

# Preventing Sexual Assault - What To Do While Driving

While out driving, take these safety precautions to reduce the opportunity of a sexual assault from occurring.

- Carry a cellular phone with you.
- Keep your car in good working order and the gas tank at least half full.
- At night, park in well-lighted areas. Lock the car doors, even if you'll only be gone a short time.
- Before returning to your car look around the parking lot for suspicious persons. If you see someone standing or loitering next to, or near your car, do not approach. Go back into the store to get assistance.
- When you return to your car have your car key ready and check the front and rear seats and floor before getting in.
- Drive with all the doors locked.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- If your car breaks down, put the hood up, lock the doors, and put on the flashers. Use flares if you have them and tie a white cloth to the antenna. If someone stops to help, don't get out of the car, but roll down the window slightly and ask the person to call the police or a tow service for you.
- If you see another motorist in trouble, don't stop. You can help by going to a telephone and calling the police for assistance.
- Exercise extra caution when using parking garages. Park near an elevator or stairwell if possible. Always scan the area for suspicious persons before walking to or from your car.
- If you are being followed, do not drive home. Drive to the nearest police or fire station and honk your horn. Or, drive to an open gas station or other business where you can safely call the police or get help from employees. Don't leave your car unless you are certain you can get inside the building safely. Try to obtain the license plate number and description of the car following you.