

COMMUNITY POLICING in Snohomish County

November/December 2002

Volume 6 Issue 6



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Teen Dating– Protecting Your Child From an Abusive Relationship

The Washington State Attorney General's Office has developed a web site that gives help to teens to prevent violence in their dating relationships. The web site, at <http://www.wa.gov/ago/violence/home.html> has tips for teens and parents in detecting whether or not they are in an abusive relationship and an extensive resource list that they can link to through the world wide web.

According to the attorney general, violence is not uncommon with teen dating. The web site points out that:

- 24% of female homicide victims are between 15 and 24 years old.
- 38% of date rape victims are young women between the ages of 14 and 17.
- 70% of pregnant teenagers are abused by their partners.
- 63% of boys ages 11-20 arrested for murder were arrested for murdering the man who was assaulting their mother.

Abuse falls within one of four categories: Physical, Emotional, Psychological, and Sexual. Physical abuse includes actions which cause physical pain or injury, such as kicking, pushing, punching, and pinching. Emotional abuse includes actions which cause loss of self-esteem, such as name-calling,

swearing, and criticizing. Psychological abuse includes actions which create fear, such as isolation or threats. Sexual abuse includes acts of a sexual nature that are unwelcome or uncomfortable. While physical and sexual are easier to detect than emotional or psychological abuse, all are equally damaging.

It is sometimes difficult to recognize signs of potential abuse early in a relationship. Many early warning signs do not give cause for alarm until later in a relationship when things start to go downhill. However there are certain early indications that a relationship may be or become abusive. Here is a list of things that should raise red flags– your teen:

- Fears their partner. The partner checks up on your teen. You see unexplained injuries on your teen.
- Becomes the target of verbal abuse by the partner, such as name-calling and demeaning comments.
- Gives up things that are important such as school, friends, time with family, activities, and other interests.
- Apologizes for their partner's behavior.
- Changes their appearance or behavior.
- Spends most of their time together with their partner .

For more information about teen dating violence and what you can do about it go to the web site: <http://www.wa.gov/ago/violence/home.html>

Holiday Shopping- More Safety Tips

If you have one of those “wonderful” remote car locks for your car, be careful in the mall parking lot.

- *When you leave your car, lock it the old fashioned way, with the key in the lock, don't use the remote. The bad guys use scanners to pick up your remote's frequency, and then open your car with their own remotes.*
- *Keep your keys safe. If you lose your keys, you lose your car. With your remote, the bad guys can use the panic button to easily find your car.*



Holiday Shopping- Protecting Yourself From Theft

The busy holiday shopping season has returned. When you are at the mall looking for those precious gifts, take the following precautions to protect yourself from becoming a victim:

- Don't display large sums of cash in public. Be discreet about the money or other valuables you are carrying.
- Be alert in public restrooms. If anything seems amiss or if a group of people is loitering in the area, leave quickly and find another facility.
- Stay alert in crowds to protect your valuables. A thief can use the cover of the crowd to make a quick getaway after stealing your wallet or shopping bag.
- Don't keep your keys in your purse. If your purse is stolen, the thief will have your address and keys to your home. Keep your keys in your pocket without an ID..
- Try to park as close to the entrance of the mall or store as possible. In a parking garage, park on the level that leads directly to the mall, so you can avoid elevators or stairwells. Stay alert for

people standing behind parked cars or pillars. At night, park under a light whenever possible.

- Consider using the mall's valet parking service if it offers one.
- Make a note of your parking spot so that you don't have to wander around the parking lot after shopping.
- Have your keys in your hand before leaving the mall and walk purposely to your car. Make sure nobody is in the car before entering, and lock the doors immediately when you get inside.
- If you are leaving a mall alone at night, request a security escort to your car.
- Don't leave packages visible on the seats or floor of your car. Use the trunk, or hide purchases under a cover or blanket.
- If you take packages to your car trunk and want to go back to the mall, move your car. Most newer vehicles have a trunk release inside the car (in the glove box or by the driver). If the thief sees something that you have just purchased that he wants, he can easily break a window and open your trunk.

Charities– Protecting Yourself From Fraud

We are frequently bombarded with requests to give our money to charitable organizations, whether by phone, in the mail or at our doors. Before you give, consider the following:

- **Do not give cash.** Legitimate charities will take a check.
- **Do not succumb to pressure.** No legitimate organization will insist that you contribute immediately.
- **Do not give to unregistered charities.** Check with the Secretary of State (go to <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/charities/>) to see if the charity that you want to give to is registered with the state.
- **Be careful of pledges you don't remember making.** If you have doubts, check your records.
- **Be careful not to give personal information such as your social security number or mother's maiden name** to anyone soliciting over the phone.
- **Recognize false claims of tax-deductibility.** Ask for written proof of tax-exempt status.
- **Never give out your checking account number or credit card number to anyone you don't know soliciting for a charity over the phone.** Ask for an address and offer to send a check.

- **Check with the National Charities Information Bureau** (<http://www.give.org/>) to make sure that the charity is abiding by certain ethical and financial standards.
- **If the solicitation is for a law enforcement charity, ask your local or state police if they've ever heard of the group.** If they haven't, chances are it's not real.
- **Ask how much of your donation is going to the charity.** Even if professional fund-raisers are truly soliciting for a charity, they may be keeping most of the donations as fees. It's often better to give directly to support charities and public services in your area.

Sound Alike Fraud

You're typing away in an online chat room when suddenly a rather noisy person gets online and begins telling everyone in the room about how they found this great charity that was helping to get presents for needy children and all you have to do is go to a web site and your donation can be processed online. The activity seems right for the season and the charity's name sounds familiar.

Be wary! Many scam artists use organization names that sound like legitimate, real charitable organizations. In the State of Washington, charities must register with the Secretary of State. Go to <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/charities/> to see if the charity that you want to give to is registered

National Fraud Information Center

If you need advice about a telephone solicitation or you want to report a possible scam, call the NFIC hotline at 1-800-876-7060. You can also ask questions or report fraud using their online forms at their web site at www.fraud.org/welcome.htm.

Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division

For more information about preventing yourself from becoming a fraud victim go to the state's Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division's web page on charity fraud at

<http://www.wa.gov/ago/consumer/charity.html>

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Snohomish County Sheriff
M/S 606 - 3000 Rockefeller Ave.
Everett, WA 98201

Rick Bart, Sheriff
Snohomish County
3000 Rockefeller Ave.
M/S 606
Fourth Floor County
Courthouse
Everett, WA 98201



1-800-
CRIME-
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Sheriff Office Precincts:

- North-
(425) 388-7939
- South-
(425) 744-6868
- East-
(360) 805-6770
- Crime Prevention
Center (128th S.W.)
(425) 710-0232

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PACE– Holiday Party Guide

With the holiday party season upon us we want to remind everyone not to drink and drive. If you will be hosting a party here are some tips to ensure that your guests do not become involved in an alcohol related crash:

- Ask guests to appoint a designated driver before the evening begins.
- Offer a variety of non-alcoholic beverages for the designated drivers or for those who choose not to drink alcohol.
- Prepare plenty of food so guests will not drink on empty stomachs.

- Invite guests who are compatible so that no one feels left out - lonely or unfriendly people often drink to excess.
- Avoid too many salty snacks- they tend to make people thirsty, so they drink more.
- If preparing an alcoholic punch, use non-carbonated base fruit juice - alcohol is absorbed into the bloodstream faster with a carbonated base.
- Never serve alcohol to someone under the legal drinking age, and never ask children to serve alcohol to guests.



