

Carjacking Protection

Sheriff Fontoura Recommends Safety Tips to Avoid Becoming the Victim of a Carjacking

While driving your car:

- Keep windows rolled up and keep doors locked.
- Avoid traffic routes or shortcuts that are not well-traveled or well-lit.
- When possible, car pool or share rides.
- If possible, do your shopping with a neighbor.
- Slow down well before reaching a red traffic light or stop sign and allow your vehicle to roll to a stop.
- If you are involved in a "bump accident," do not shut off the ignition and do not immediately exit your car to inspect the damage.
- If the actions or the language of the other driver appear threatening, drive directly to the nearest police station, fire station or open store and contact the police.
- When stopped in traffic, you should always leave sufficient space between your car and the one in front of you to turn out and go around.
- If you feel that you are being followed, drive to the nearest police precinct, fire station or open store and contact the police.
- Keep your wallet or purse out of view while driving; never leave them exposed on the seat next to you.
- If someone attempts to force you off the road, don't panic; blow your horn constantly to attract attention.
- If you are forced over to the side of the road, as soon as you stop, put your car in reverse and back away.

When parking your car:

- Park only in well-lit and well-traveled areas.
- Using your mirrors, examine your immediate surroundings before exiting your vehicle.
- Secure all packages and valuables out of sight in the trunk of your vehicle.
- While unattended, never leave your vehicle unlocked.
- Use extra caution in enclosed parking areas.

Returning to your parked car:

- Have your keys in your hand and ready.
- Be aware of occupied cars.
- Before entering your vehicle, look inside first to make certain no one is hiding in the back seat.

