



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

THE SENIOR NEWS



MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR WALSH

As the holidays approach, many of us are spending more time shopping. Those who carry purses need to be extra careful because purse snatchings often increase at this time of the year.

The best advice to avoid purse-snatching is to consider *not* carrying a purse. Instead, use a small wallet that holds your driver's license, a credit card, and some cash. Place it in a front coat pocket or front pants pocket. It is rare for a robber to approach a woman who is not carrying a purse and demand money. However, there are some important things to remember:

- Always walk with confidence.
- Hold your purse firmly over your shoulder and make it obvious that you have a tight grip on it.
- Be aware that women also steal purses!
- Be aware that most purse snatchings occur in broad daylight in busy parking lots of stores and malls.
- Be suspicious of cars driving past you slowly, as many purse snatchers grab purses from their vehicles.
- Finally, if a purse snatcher *does* try to take your purse, do not fight with him or her. The thief will usually end up with what they want anyway, and there is no need for you to be injured in the process.

**Be safe and have a healthy,
happy holiday season!**

Keys to Criminal Success

The thought of serving on a grand jury, where your vote decides if a case should be indicted or not, can be an intimidating process. However, most find it to be a very rewarding experience, and even entertaining. Below is one Grand Jury's list of "Keys to Criminal Success" prepared from actual criminal cases they heard:

1. Make sure your getaway car is gassed-up before the heist.
2. Ask a friend to double-check spelling on forged checks.
3. Be aware of winter weather advisories...footprints in fresh snow are bad.
4. Don't keep your crack in your sock drawer. If you do, don't ask the arresting officer to grab a pair of socks for you as you're being carted off to jail.
5. If you decide to run from the police, run *away* from the cruiser spot light that is blinding you.
6. Dress for success. While the bathrobe may hide your pistol, it can make fleeing from the police awkward and embarrassing.
7. Drug dogs are trained to bite...don't stash your pot down your underwear.
8. Avoid sissy street names (e.g "Foo-Foo")...OK, this won't help you be a better criminal, but it will help you avoid the endless mockery of the Grand Jury.

Visit our Senior Safety website:

www.co.summit.oh.us/prosecutor/srcitsafe.htm

53 University Ave., 6th Floor
Akron, Ohio 44308
(330) 643-2800
Fax: (330) 643-2137
E-mail:
holdt@prosecutor.summitoh.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CO.SUMMIT.OH.US/
PROSECUTOR



Look for our 2011 Senior Safety Awareness Calendars which are now available. If you would like a calendar sent to your home, call my office at (330) 643-7915.

SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH 2010



During September, Senior Safety Awareness Month, my office sponsored several self-defense classes. Lt. Chad Cunningham from the Akron University Police Department instructed seniors on simple techniques to protect themselves if faced with a dangerous situation.

Unfortunately, none of us are immune from becoming a victim of crime. I realized this myself on February 21, 1986, when I became the 11th of 13 women who was attacked in broad daylight by a serial rapist in Akron. I was luckier than many of the other women as I was able to fight off my attacker and my injuries were minor. This was an experience I have never forgotten and often share with other people with the

hope of providing valuable advice.

On the day of my attack, I was cleaning snow off my car at 8:30 in the morning. My car was parked on the street and I observed a suspicious man pass by me on the sidewalk. I had a gut feeling that something about him wasn't right so I watched him for a few minutes but then decided since it was daylight and I was in a public area, there was no need to worry. Shortly thereafter, I got into my car and did not lock my door. Within seconds, my car door opened and this same man grabbed my throat and began choking me. I immediately reacted by hitting him, kicking him, and screaming as loud as I could. I made such a commotion that after a few minutes, he panicked and ran away.

I learned several things from this experience, which I will share with you:

1. **Rehearse a plan in your mind where you tell yourself what you will do if something like this ever happens to you.** I had thought about this possibility before I was ever attacked and because I had a plan, I was able to react quickly. There is no time to think when something like this occurs and if you have never thought about it, you are less likely to react.
2. **If you are in a public place where other people are likely to hear you, scream as loud as you can and do anything you can to draw attention to the situation.** Criminals do not want to get caught and most will panic if you are making a lot of noise.
3. **If you have a gut feeling that someone or something is not quite right, do not ignore that gut feeling because your instinct is probably right.** Most victims of crime have told me that they had a bad feeling about the criminal and wish they had not ignored their instinct.
4. **Do not assume you are safe just because it is daylight and you are in a public place.** There are almost as many crimes committed during the day as there are crimes committed at night.
5. **Always lock your car door.**