



MICHAEL KENT
CHIEF OF POLICE

IRVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, CA 92606 | 949-724-7000 | irvinepd.org

Strangers

Written by Shiree Lind, Community Outreach Specialist

Strangers are often considered people we wouldn't go to if we needed help. Children may even describe strangers as people who look unkept or scary. In some cases, this may be true. So, how do we teach them who might be a "helpful" stranger? When a child is lost, we want them to feel comfortable approaching a stranger. As adults, we may be asking strangers for help.

Here are some things to consider:

- While at the grocery store, talk to your child about your expectations if you happen to get separated.
- When you check out, talk to the cashier and identify them as someone they can approach because they work at the store. You can identify them by the store uniform and name tag that they wear. Tell your child to stay by the register with the cashier until you are reunited.
- Many of us have been in a position where we tried to help a lost child; all they can tell us is they were with mom, dad, or grandma, etc. Teach your child your name and phone number.
- Keep current photos of your loved ones with you so it will be easier to get others to help you find them.
- As your children grow and start to use social media or play online games, set boundaries so they do not share personal information with strangers online.
- As adults we also need to set boundaries for ourselves. Prevent being victimized by distraction thefts by keeping a safe space between yourself and someone approaching you to ask you a question. For example, if someone starts approaching you while on a walk, let them know by putting your arms in front of you that they don't need to get any closer.
- Pay attention to people's actions and listen to your intuition.

For more information, please visit CrimePrevention.IrvinePD.org or contact Irvine Police Department's non-emergency line at 949-724-7000.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



[@irvinepolice](https://twitter.com/irvinepolice)



[@irvinepolice](https://www.instagram.com/irvinepolice)



[irvine-pd](https://www.linkedin.com/company/irvine-pd)



[Irvine Police Department](https://www.facebook.com/IrvinePoliceDepartment)

For more information on crime prevention and personal safety, please visit: crimeprevention.irvinepd.org