

## How We Can Help

*The mission of the Prince William County Police Department is to enhance the quality of life by providing police services through shared responsibility with the public.*

The Prince William County Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit is dedicated to providing education and training to the citizens of Prince William County. Crime prevention is more than just security – it is *community*.

Cleaning up litter, starting a Neighborhood Watch, posting no loitering signs and locking your doors are examples of simple, cost-effective measures that prevent crime and improve the quality of life in our community.

This guide is being provided so that you can learn basic techniques to help prevent crime and provide you a list of resources to assist you. If you should have any questions or would like more information please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 703-792-7270.

Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Case Number \_\_\_\_\_



# Citizen's Guide to Crime Prevention & Community Resources



## Prince William County Police Department Crime Prevention Unit

## Resources & Referrals

**Adult Detention Center**  
703-792-6420

**Animal Control**  
703-792-6465 or 703-792-6500  
Information on lost pets, found animals, dog licenses and adoptions from the animal shelter and provides animal related law enforcement.

**Area Agency on Aging**  
703-792-6400  
Offers a wide range of services for senior citizens and their families.

**Community Services Board**  
703-792-7800  
Provides substance abuse counseling and programs, family counseling and 24-hour emergency services for individuals with mental illnesses.

**Department of Social Services**  
703-792-7500  
Helps families and individuals meet their basic needs and become self-sufficient and protects children and vulnerable adults from abuse.

**Magistrate**  
East: 703-792-7360 West: 703-792-6260  
Issues warrants, subpoenas, civil processes, conducts bail and bond hearings, accepts citizen criminal complaints and pre-payable fines.

**Office of Dispute Resolution**  
703-792-4756  
Resolves conflicts related to small business, neighborhood disputes, landlord/tenant, merchant/customer and parent/teen with the guidance of a qualified mediator.

**Public Works**  
703-792-6820  
Responsible for a number of services including maintaining road and street lights, street signs, property code enforcement, construction permits and illegal dumping.

**Residential Facilities**  
ACTS – 703-221-3188  
SERVE – 703-368-3612  
Emergency shelter for people who are temporarily homeless.

**Sexual Assault Victim's Advocacy Service**  
24-Hour Helpline 703-368-4141  
Hospital and court accompaniment, individual crisis counseling and support groups for survivors of sexual assault as well as their loved ones and friends.

## Domestic Violence Resources

**ACTS/Turning Points**  
703-221-4951  
Domestic violence program and emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence.

**Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Services Unit**  
703-792-6210  
Handles child custody & support matters, protective orders and juvenile delinquency issues.

**Victim/Witness Services**  
703-392-7083  
Offers victims and witnesses guidance and assistance, including appropriate counseling when necessary.

For more information visit: [www.pwcgov.org](http://www.pwcgov.org) or call 703-PWC-INFO (792-4636).

# Crime Prevention Is Everyone's Business

This is a brief overview of actions that you can take to better protect yourself and your property. We encourage everyone to follow these tips and to share them with your friends and neighbors so that we can all work to prevent crime in our community.

## Theft Prevention

- Lock your car and don't leave it running – even for a minute
- Park in well-lighted areas
- Don't leave a spare set of keys anywhere in or on the car
- Keep your registration card with you and not in your car
- Use your parking brake and turn wheels towards the curb
- Lock valuables in the trunk of the car or out of site
- Don't leave your purse, wallet or other valuables unattended

## Robbery Prevention

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Don't carry large amounts of cash or more than two credit cards
- Don't wear large amounts of valuable jewelry
- Try not to walk around shopping areas, banks and convenience stores alone or in dark areas

- If you need to make cash drops – vary the times and have someone with you
- Keep the interior of stores well lit and a minimum of two employees working
- Do not block windows with large signs or displays

## Burglary Prevention

- Lock all doors and windows in your house
- Utilize deadbolts on all exterior doors and secure sliding glass doors
- Keep all shrubs trimmed below window level
- Keep trees limbed up at least six feet
- Use adequate lighting inside and outside your house or business
- Use timers on lights if you are going to be away
- If you are going to be away for long periods of time get a trusted neighbor to collect your mail, mow your lawn and even park their car in your drive way from time to time
- Secure all windows with a pin or nail system
- Keep the garage secured and secure valuable items that are inside the garage
- Call the Crime Prevention Unit to do a free security survey of your home or business at 703-792-7270

- Engrave all valuable items with your drivers license number, (**not your social security number**). An engraver is available for you to borrow from the police department

## Personal Safety

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Trust your instincts
- Avoid parking in dark areas and going out alone
- Walk with confidence and alertness
- Have your keys ready when approaching your house or car
- Get in and out of your vehicle as quickly as possible
- When in your car, lock your doors immediately and wear your seat belt
- Keep money and credit cards in your pocket or inside your jacket
- Doors should have a peep site and never open it for a stranger
- Pre-plan and think through possible attacks and carry a cell phone

## Neighborhood Watch

- Neighborhood Watch is proven to be one of the best crime prevention tools
- Creates greater awareness of crime
- Brings neighbors closer together and creates community pride
- Increases reporting of crime and suspicious activities
- Serves as warning to criminals

- Results in a better and safer community
- Crime prevention training provided
- Call the Crime Prevention Unit today to start a neighborhood watch in your community at 703-792-7270

## Crime Prevention Contacts & Resources

For more information on any of the topics discussed in this guide or if you are interested in participating in one of our *Citizen Police Academies* please call the Prince William County Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at 703-792-7270.

Or use the following resources:

Prince William County Police - [www.pwcgov.org/police](http://www.pwcgov.org/police)

Traffic Complaints - 703-792-5919

McGruff, resources for children and adults - [www.mcgruff.com](http://www.mcgruff.com)

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - [www.ncmec.org](http://www.ncmec.org)

Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) - [www.heatreward.com](http://www.heatreward.com)

National Crime Prevention Council - [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)

Virginia Crime Prevention Association - [www.vcpa.org](http://www.vcpa.org)