



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Shopping Safety Tips from the Sheriff

Flagler Sheriff's deputies recently responded to a report of larceny regarding a woman whose wallet was stolen from her purse while she was shopping for groceries. Sheriff Rick Staly is reminding everyone how important it is to pay attention to your surroundings and your belongings inside and outside of stores.

"Unfortunately there are people out there who will prey on others," Sheriff Staly said. "People may be watching you to try to take advantage of a situation while you are distracted."

Here are some common safety tips to follow from Sheriff Staly to avoid becoming a victim:

Pay attention to where you park your vehicle and remember to lock your doors. Never leave valuables in plain view in your vehicle. At night, try to park in well-lit areas.

Never leave a purse or wallet unattended in a shopping cart. It is best to keep your purse on your person. If you must set it inside the cart, make sure it is zipped or snapped closed and use the child safety straps to secure it to the cart – but never let it out of your sight.

When leaving a store, pay attention to your surroundings and look for any suspicious activity in the parking lot or around your vehicle. Leave from the door nearest your parked vehicle, have your keys in your hand, and lock the doors after you enter the vehicle before driving away.

"If you ever feel uncomfortable in a situation, contact law enforcement or the store security officer," Sheriff Staly said. "And remember that if you see something, you should say something. You could save yourself or someone else from becoming a victim."

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