

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND PROTECTION**

Sexual assault is not a crime of passion, it is a crime of violence. Far from being impulsive behavior, most sexual assault is planned. It happens on streets, in homes, in parks and other places. The attacker has no regard for age, race or social status. The Wyckoff Police Department offers the following suggestions as a way of safeguarding yourself from becoming a victim.

### **Precautions for the Home:**

- Have good locks on doors and keep them locked at all times.
- Never open a door to a stranger and require them to identify themselves satisfactorily. If you are at all suspicious, call the police immediately.
- Don't let a stranger (man or woman) inside your home to use the phone. Make the call for them or call the police to help.
- Have lights on timers in more than one room. Have them operational 24 hours.
- If you receive an obscene telephone call hang up, (and before receiving another call, pick up the receiver and listen for a dial tone). Push \*57 if you have a 12-button push button set with Touch-tone service, if you have a rotary or pulse dialing phone dial 1157. Listen for the confirmation announcement and hang up. Make a note of the date and time of the call that you traced. Then call the police.
- If you return home and find a door or window has been forced or broken, do not enter, go to a neighbor and call police immediately.
- Do not keep jewelry and/or valuables in the master bedroom.

### **Precautions While Driving:**

- When practicable, travel on well-lighted and populated streets.
- Keep doors and windows locked.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- If you are being followed, drive to the nearest populated area or to the nearest police or fire station.
- If you are followed into your driveway and feel in danger, stay in your car, lock doors and sound horn to attract attention.
- Park in a well-lighted and populated area.

### **Precautions While Walking:**

- Avoid walking alone, especially at night.
- Avoid shortcuts through parks, vacant lots or other deserted places.
- Always walk confidently and quickly, staying alert to your surroundings.
- If a driver stops to ask directions, avoid getting near the car. If you feel threatened, scream, and run in the direction opposite the car.
- Be aware of the people around you; be aware of your surroundings and the total environment.