

# Kid-Safe Communities

## Predators

The term predator describes a person whose primary mission in life is to harm our children in some way. The harm could take the form of molestation, abduction or abuse. Nearly everyone mentally pictures a predator as a "seedy, low-life" looking individual lurking in the shadows, wearing a trench coat.

The truth of the matter is they can look like anyone. They come from all walks of life, age groups and economic backgrounds. There are usually common threads that loosely link these people together. Most try to get themselves into positions of power over, or exposure to children.

No occupation excludes the likelihood of these types of individuals. They've even been known to have been Clergy, Police Officers, Scout Leaders, Coaches, etc. Molesters will try to seek positions in close proximity to children, such places as pool halls, arcades, shopping malls or playgrounds. They may also volunteer as chaperones or other type of assistants necessary to deal with groups of children.

A predator or pedophile can be anyone, even someone your child may know. Remember, the overwhelming majority of children are victimized by someone they know.

Child abductors may randomly select their victim or they may carefully plan their evil act for weeks or months. Some are interested in just boys, others in girls. Few make any distinction as to what race or economic level their victims come from. They really don't care.

Many parents develop a false sense of security because they have impressed on their children to "stay away from strangers". Unfortunately, statistics show that the vast majority of child molestation, abuse or abduction is performed by someone the victim or family knows.

Another sad statistic is that all too often these incidents involve parents, grandparents, siblings, other family members, friends or acquaintances. The bottom line is that you can't exclude anyone from your watchful eye.

Most kids don't know a good definition of a "stranger". When we tell them to "stay away from strangers", we're really telling them to stay out of harms way. In reality this is easier said than done. Properly defining a stranger so that a child can understand the definition can be difficult to do. Predators take great care not to be classified as a stranger.

For instance, is the neighbor that talks to your child-a stranger? Is the school janitor who always says hello to your child, a stranger? Is the store clerk, the one you always take the time to talk with when your child is with you-a stranger? Telling your child not to talk to strangers becomes a complex issue when you add all these factors into the mix.

Most people pose no threat to your child. However, children must be told to stay away from anyone you have not given them permission to talk to. This should include everyone.

Predators and pedophiles have their own communications network on the Internet. They've even got their own newsletters, videos and underground radio network. They are constantly trading information, ideas and methods designed to gain your children's confidence.

# **Kid-Safe Communities**

They are working daily on developing new and better techniques to avoid being detected. Worldwide pedophile organizations are promoting outrageous theories like adult sex with children is healthy and that child molestation is not a crime.

It's impossible to keep child molesters and abductors away from your neighborhoods so you must take a proactive approach to this danger by being aware and teaching your children how to stop from becoming a victim. Teach them to be aware of their surroundings including buildings and people and increase their level of "Danger Awareness".

**Search for Predators in Your Community**



<https://www.familywatchdog.us>