

LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RELEASE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



Larry Campbell, Sheriff

Leon County Sheriff's Office
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DATE: 11/4/2009

LCSO Investigating Suspicious Incidents Involving Leon County Students

This morning at approximately 9:00AM, Leon County Sheriff's Deputies responded to Sand Trail in reference to a 14yoa girl who reported an unknown man had grabbed her by the arm as she walked to her bus stop. The teen reported she had just crossed Ballard Road from Sand Trail Lane, when a vehicle stopped next to her. The vehicle was traveling north and the driver pulled up next to the girl. The unknown driver spoke to the girl through the vehicle's passenger side window and asked if she wanted or needed a ride. The teen leaned into the vehicle and told the driver she did not want a ride, at which point the subject grabbed the girl by her arm and told her to get in the vehicle. The teen reported she was able to escape the subject's grasp and ran home to report this incident to her mother.

The teen described the suspect vehicle as a black, 4-door with rust around the edge of the hood. The driver is described as a black male, late 20's or early 30's, wearing a black shirt with a white shirt underneath and a diamond stud earring in his left ear. Violent Crimes Detectives have interviewed the child and Deputies have canvassed the area for suspects or witnesses.

In an unrelated incident, an 11yoa boy reported today that yesterday morning at approximately 8:35AM, he was walking in the 1700 block of Copperfield Circle when a vehicle pulled next to him and an unknown subject asked him if he needed a ride. The child told the stranger he did not need a ride and the subject left the area. The child described the vehicle as a large, dark blue van with no windows on the back. The driver is described as a small white male, with black spiked hair short on the sides, big ears and pale skin.

Violent Crimes Detectives ask anybody that may have any information about these incidents to contact the Leon County Sheriff's Office at (850) 922-3300.

Parents are urged to teach your children not to talk with strangers.

- Children should not approach a motor vehicle for someone asking directions or asking if they need a ride.
- If a stranger does approach your child tell them to remember the description of the motor vehicle and to report this information immediately.

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Parents should talk to their children about dangerous situations and give them these easy to remember safety instructions:

- If a stranger asks you for help or to keep a “secret,” it could be a dangerous situation. Say no and tell a parent or trusted adult.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel scared or uncomfortable, get away from the situation. Make an excuse or just run away, and go to a safe place.
- Know what to do. Think No, Go, Yell, Tell. If you're in a dangerous situation, say no, run away, yell as loud as you can, and tell an adult.
- Ask your parents first. If a stranger invites you to go somewhere, offers you a gift, or just wants to talk, say you need to ask your parents for permission first.
- Stick with friends. It's always safer to play in a group