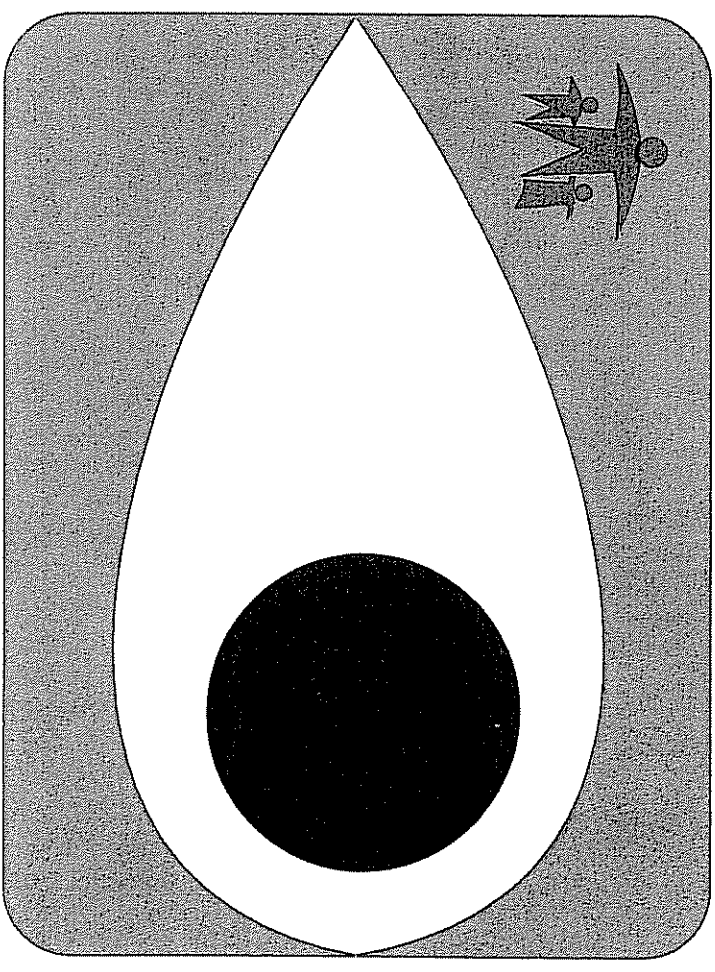
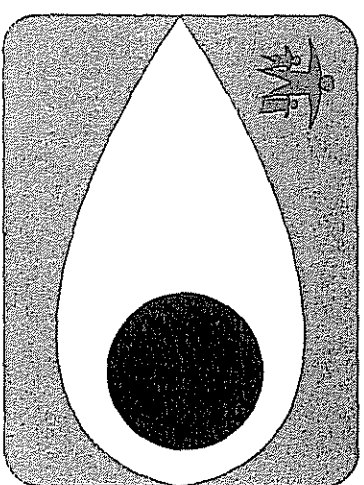


**MICHIGAN
COMMUNITY
CHILD WATCH**



HANDBOOK

MICHIGAN COMMUNITY



CHILD WATCH

THE MICHIGAN COMMUNITY CHILD WATCH PROGRAM

The Focus of the Michigan Community Child Watch Program is to provide you with the tools which enables you to observe, remember, report and record all situations that could be labeled as dangerous, suspicious or questionable when it comes to the safety of our communities' children. As a member and a trained observer belonging to the Michigan Community Child Watch Program you will become a valuable tool and a partner with your community law enforcement agency.

To qualify as a trained MCCW Volunteer, you must:

- A. Attend an education session
- B. Complete a screening process by the local law enforcement agency.

Responsibilities of the MCCW Volunteer:

- A. Display the MCCW poster in a prominent window in your home
- B. Report to the law enforcement agency any suspicious person(s) or activities you observe in your community.

A volunteer's home is not to be used as a police station, a restaurant, a restroom facility or a weather refuge.

The function of the volunteer is to observe, remember, report and record what you think could be a threat to the children. You need not be the parent of school aged children. We encourage all adults to be MCCW volunteers.

A MCCW volunteer is a valuable asset to the community and the law enforcement agency — you can take pride in being a part of this program.

(All rules of the MCCW Program are in accordance with the Michigan Public Act of 1989.)

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

A **YES** answer to any of the following questions would indicate an emergency situation:

Is there an injury or possible injury?

Is a crime being committed or about to be committed?

Is someone asking for help?

Is the suspect still at the scene?

Is there threat of impending danger or major damage?

Is there a hazardous condition which could cause injury or death to citizens or their property and which will not go away unless action is taken?

Will immediate response prevent possible injury, damage, or result in the apprehension of the perpetrator?

Anything you think needs police attention, call!

How to make an emergency call:

1. Stay calm. Don't get excited. Don't wait for someone else to call.
2. Tell the person who answers the phone exactly what is wrong, like this: "... there was just a car accident in front of my home."
3. Tell them the exact address where the emergency is, including your apartment number if you live in an apartment.
4. Tell them the phone number you are calling from.
5. Tell them your name.
6. **DO NOT HANG UP.** ... until the person on the telephone tells you to. They may need to ask you more questions to help the fire, police, or ambulance find you. They also will tell you what to do until help arrives.

REPORTING A CRIME OR EMERGENCY

When reporting a crime or emergency to your law enforcement agency, the following information is needed:

1. **Your name and address.**
2. **The type of crime or emergency.**
3. **The exact location of the situation.**
4. **The description of the vehicle and/or suspect involved.**
5. **The direction of flight.**
6. **The time of occurrence.**
7. **Any weapon used. If so, what type.**

The above seven requested items are very important; however, do not wait to call until you can answer all of them. Call as soon as you observe said crime or emergency, then attempt to obtain the answers to numbers four (4) thru seven (7).

EXAMPLE OF REPORTING A CRIME

This is Mrs. Jones at 2133 Volunteer Avenue SW. Someone is breaking into a car parked in front of my house. The car is a blue late model Ford two-door.

The subject breaking in is a white male, 20-23 years old, 5'10" to 6' tall, medium build, 165 to 175 lbs., brown shoulder length hair, wearing a blue jean jacket, blue jeans, and white tennis shoes with blue stripes. He just ran north on Volunteer carrying a radio taken from the car.

CRIMINAL DESCRIPTION SHEET

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Height _____
 Weight _____
 Nationality *if known* _____
 Complexion _____
 Eyes - Color - Eyeglasses
 (Alert - Normal - Droopy)

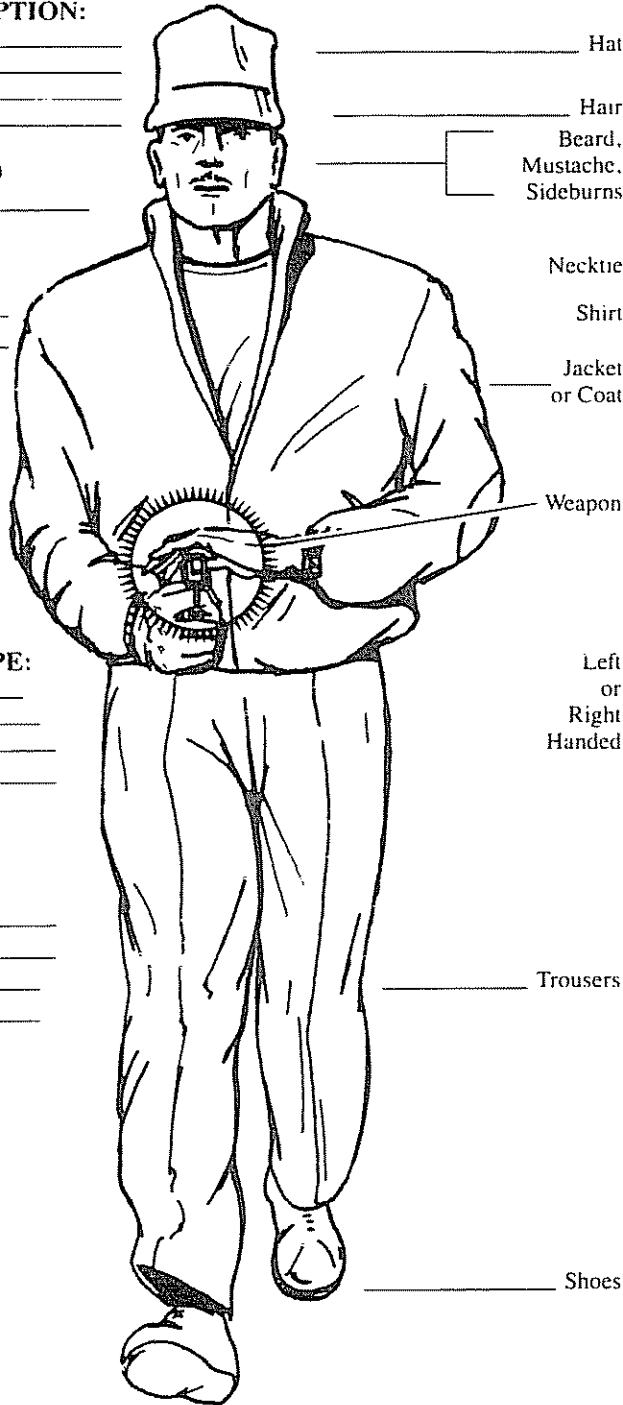
Visible Scars, Marks
 Tattoos

Age _____

METHOD OF ESCAPE:

Direction _____
 License No. _____
 Vehicle Description _____

REMARKS:



Hat

Hair

Beard,
 Mustache,
 Sideburns

Necktie

Shirt

Jacket
 or Coat

Weapon

Left
 or
 Right
 Handed

Trousers

Shoes

DESCRIBING A PERSON

When describing a person, you are attempting to distinguish this person from all others. Its best to describe from the top down.

Race — white, black, Spanish, etc.

Sex — male, female.

Age — 18 to 20 yrs., 30 to 40 yrs., etc.

Clothing — type, color, hat, coat, shirt, pants, shoes, etc.

Height — 5'8" to 5'10", etc.

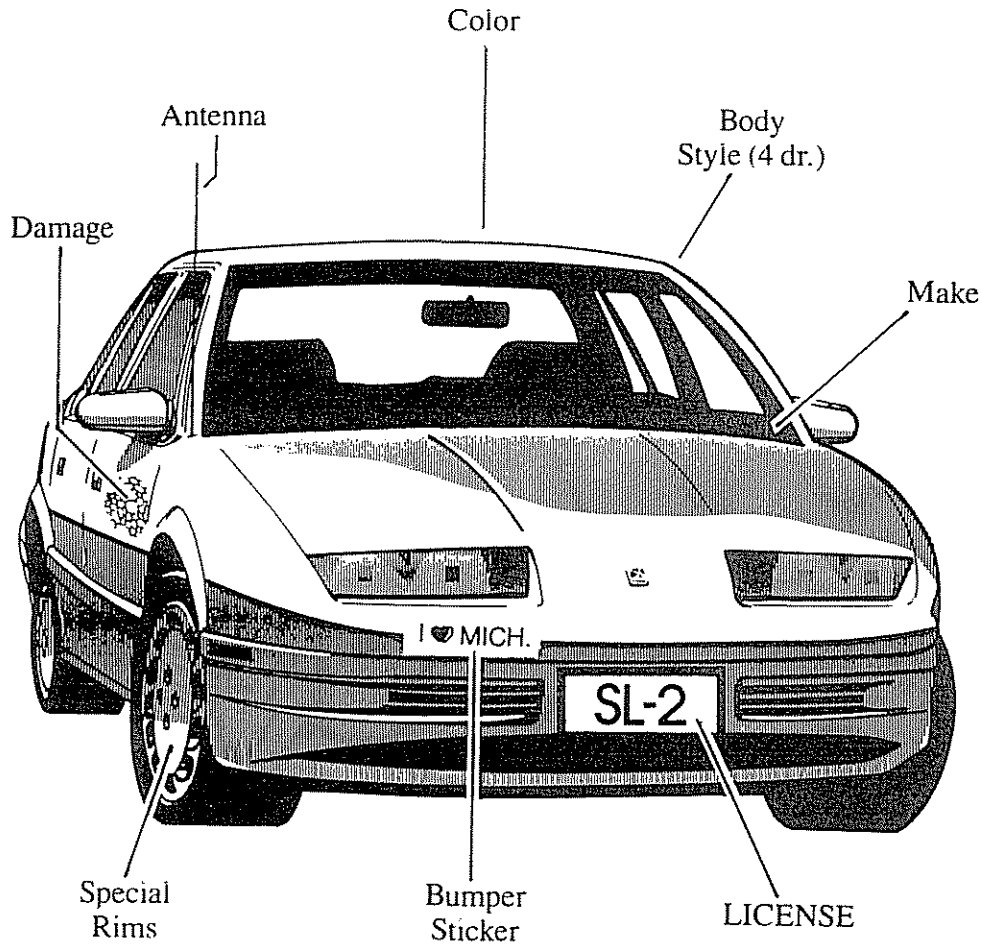
Weight — 140 to 150 lbs., etc.

Hair — color, style, length, beard, mustache, sideburns, etc.

Build — fat, thin, large, petite, etc.

Other — scars, tattoos, moles, etc.

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION



DESCRIBING A VEHICLE

When describing a vehicle, attempt to supply as much information as possible that would allow the officers to distinguish this vehicle from the many others. Again, describe from the top down.

1. **LICENSE NUMBER — most important.**
2. **Color(s) — two tone, three tone, etc.**
3. **Body Style — 2 door, 4 door, pickup, van, etc.**
4. **Make — Chevrolet, Ford, Oldsmobile, Plymouth, other.**
5. **Year — If not known, new or old.**
6. **Any outstanding features — damage, rust, clean, dirty, antenna, bumper sticker, sun roof, vanity plate, etc.**

LURES

These are some common lures used to entice children.

- The stranger will ask directions and then request the victim to accompany him in a vehicle and show him the way.
- The stranger will request assistance with his vehicle. He will ask the victim to get into the driver's seat and turn the key for him. The victim is then grabbed by a confederate who is hiding in the vehicle.
- The stranger will request assistance with his car. He will ask the victim to fill some empty milk cartons with water for him and then ask the victim to accompany him to the nearest gas station in case he has any additional problems.
- The stranger states that his pet is lost and asks the victim for assistance in finding him. After unsuccessfully checking the area, by foot or by car, the stranger will invite the victim to accompany him while they check other locations.
- The stranger will reprimand the victim for doing something wrong or for being in an area where he shouldn't be. The stranger will command the victim to get in the car so that he can be transported home to have his mother advised of his wrong-doing. (A YOUNGSTER PLAYING AROUND A CONSTRUCTION SITE OR AN ABANDONED BUILDING IS PRIME TARGET FOR A STRANGER.)

(Note: WITH MANY OF THESE LURES, THE STRANGER HAS ESTABLISHED A TRUSTING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE VICTIM. HE IS NO LONGER A STRANGER IN THE EYES OF THE CHILD.)

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

As parents, we should remember that our children are most likely to be exposed to danger and receive injuries while involved in their most common day-to-day activities. Some of these activities require that parents teach their children about:

- Traffic/pedestrian safety — Do your children really *know how* to cross the street safely or do they just recite a few rules they don't fully understand?
- Fire safety — Does your family have an escape route to get out of the house in case of a fire?
- Seatbelt safety — Are we protecting our children while transporting them by using child restraint devices or seatbelts?
- Seasonal and holiday safety — Are your children being taught current seasonal safety messages?
- ORV, ATV, snow mobile, moped safety — Do you know the laws concerning their operation in Michigan? Are you teaching your children to operate these vehicles within the law and safely?
- Gun safety — Are our firearms stored in our homes safely? Are your children taught not to touch them?
- Home alone — Are your children prepared to deal with emergencies? Should they be left home alone?

Many of our children receive frequent safety information through the school system. But we, as Child Watch volunteers, need to reinforce and practice these safety lessons at home. A MCCW volunteer should take note of all dangerous situations that confront our children and be prepared to report them to the local authorities.

CARING CAN'T WAIT

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

TELEPHONE NUMBER	NAME	TELEPHONE NUMBER	NAME

- ☆ **OBSERVE**
- ☆ **REMEMBER**
- ☆ **REPORT**
- ☆ **RECORD**

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