

# Family Safety and Legal Tips

A public service of Montlick & Associates, Attorneys

[www.helpkeepkidssafe.org](http://www.helpkeepkidssafe.org)



## Holiday Shopping Safety Tips



### **Make the Holidays Memorable, Take Safety Precautions**

*The holidays are a fun time of year, but they're also a time when people can become more vulnerable to theft and other crimes. The Georgia Injury Attorneys from Montlick & Associates have created this safety guide with important information and resources to help ensure everyone enjoys this special time of year.*

**We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors.**

### **Holiday Shopping Safety**

- Never leave purchased items visible in your vehicle. Place bags in the car trunk or hidden compartment.
- Remain aware of your surroundings at all times, and move to and from your vehicle with confidence and purpose.
- Have car keys ready before getting to your car, so you don't have to search for them while standing near your car.
- Don't talk on your cell phone while shopping or while walking to your car. Being distracted makes you an easy target for theft.
- If shopping after dark, park in areas that have adequate lighting, and consider shopping with someone rather than going alone.
- Deter pickpockets. Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front trouser pocket.

### **Online Shopping Tips**

- Shop with companies you know and trust. Do your homework before buying products or services from new or unfamiliar retailers.
- Shop on secure websites. When browsing the web, the URLs (web page addresses) begin with the letters "http". Over a secure connection, the address displayed will begin with "https" - note the "s" at the end.
- Check a company's shipping and return policy.



- Depending on the bank, using a credit card instead of a debit card can offer you some anti-fraud protection that credit cards offer.
- Beware of "bargains" from companies with whom you are unfamiliar—if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
- Keep your personal information private and your password secure.
- When shopping online, never give out your full social security number unless required for a credit application from a verifiable source, (e.g., a known retailer or financial institution)."

### **Shopping With Small Children**

- If you are shopping with children, make a plan in case you are separated from each other. Select a central meeting place.
- Teach them to know they can ask mall personnel or store security employees if they need help.

Sources: [privacyrights.org](http://privacyrights.org), [ncpc.org](http://ncpc.org), [team.georgia.gov](http://team.georgia.gov)



### **Never Leave Your Vehicle Running Unattended!**

*It may seem harmless to leave your car idling while you run into a shop for a quick coffee or dry cleaning pickup, but you run the risk of serious consequences. Leaving your vehicle idling unattended can result in a citation from police, or worse, a stolen car. Always turn off your vehicle and lock your doors, even if for a minute.*

These are just a few precautions to stay safe this holiday season. To see our latest safety videos and downloadable materials and to register for Free Safety Alerts, please visit the website [HelpKeepKidsSafe.org](http://HelpKeepKidsSafe.org) or go to [Montlick.com](http://Montlick.com) and click on "Family Safety & Legal Tips."