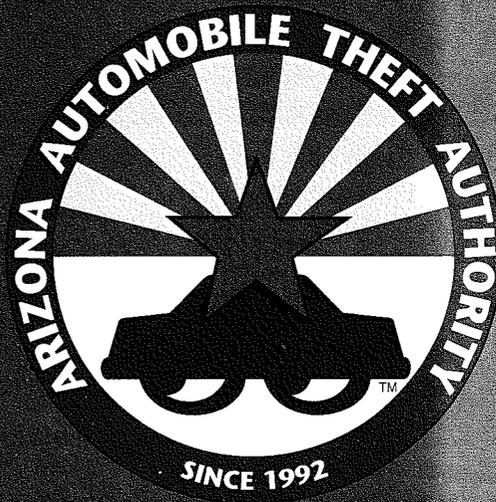


# PREVENT CARJACKING



**Carjacking  
gives a whole  
new meaning  
to highway  
robbery.**

**For more information call:  
1-888-668-4433**

**Arizona Automobile Theft Authority**

## **What is Carjacking?**

Imagine being approached by someone while in your car. Now imagine this individual threatening bodily injury and demanding your vehicle. You have just been CARJACKED, the crime of stealing a car forcibly while the owner is present.

Carjacking can happen anywhere, not just in "high crime" neighborhoods, and is just as likely to occur during the day as at night.

## **Growing Crime Trend**

During the last several years, the term "carjacking" has become more and more prevalent in our news headlines and stories. Although statistics are not available, carjacking has every appearance of becoming one of the fastest growing national crimes. Many vehicles today are equipped with sophisticated anti-theft devices that make them more difficult to steal. Carjackers find it much easier to take a car while the keys are in the ignition than to break into a locked automobile, possibly protected by anti-theft devices.

## **Anyone Can be a Target**

Many vehicles are stolen and broken down into parts that are resold, and older vehicles may be more desirable due to the demand for parts. Other vehicles are stolen to be exported and sold in other countries. Some are stolen so they can be used to commit other crimes and/or used as a means of transportation. Simply put, no car or location is immune to carjacking. Carjacking is a crime of opportunity. Be alert and aware of any area where thieves may be hiding, including:

- Intersections controlled by stoplights or signs
- Public garages and parking lots
- Shopping malls, grocery and convenience stores
- Self-service gas stations and car washes
- Automatic teller machines (ATMs)
- Residential driveways, garages, and streets as you enter and exit the vehicle
- Highway exit and entrance ramps, or any place where drivers slow down or stop
- Dark, isolated areas

## How to Reduce the Carjacking Risk

Many current theft deterrent systems are equipped with anti-carjacking features. And while there is no guaranteed way to avoid being carjacked, your risk of being victimized can also be reduced by practicing these common sense techniques:

### When entering your vehicle and while driving:

- Have your key ready to enter the vehicle, and check around and inside before getting in.
- Know where you're going and how to get there. Call ahead for directions, if necessary.
- Drive with all doors locked and windows up.
- Make a mental note of hospitals, police and fire stations as you pass by.
- When pulling up behind another vehicle at a stoplight or sign, leave enough space in front of you for an emergency escape, if needed.
- When dropping off a guest at their vehicle, make sure they are in the car and safely on their way before departing.
- Avoid driving through high-crime or unfamiliar areas.
- Avoid driving during late night and early morning hours when less traffic is on the road.
- Avoid curbside lanes. Drive in the center lanes away from potential foot traffic.
- Do not hurry to stoplights or signs. Keep the vehicle in motion whenever possible.

### When approaching your destination, parking your vehicle, and preparing to exit:

- Check rearview mirrors to make sure you're not being followed.
- Choose a secured and well-lit parking lot or garage near heavily-traveled walkways, streets and businesses for greater visibility.
- Park at the ground level, if possible, to avoid using elevators or stairs.
- When returning home after dark, have someone turn on the outside light and meet you at the door, if possible.
- When exiting your vehicle, be cautious of surrounding obstructions and natural barriers that may be concealing a carjacker.
- Never sit in your parked or stopped car eating, sleeping, reading or applying makeup.
- Do not park next to suspicious vans, trucks, dumpsters, or places carjackers may be hiding.

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When it comes to strangers...

- If approached by a stranger while in your car, drive off if possible or lean on your horn to attract attention.
- Carjackers may stage a minor accident so they can approach your car. If your car is bumped from behind, and you do not feel comfortable with the individual(s) involved in the situation, drive to the nearest hospital, police or fire station for help.
- Do not open your vehicle door or window for any stranger. If a suspicious person is near your unoccupied car, do not approach. Keep walking to the nearest public place and call for assistance.

Consider your safety if actually confronted by a carjacker:

- Don't reach for your purse or valuables. Leave everything behind if forced from the car.
- Don't resist, especially if the thief has a weapon. Give up your vehicle with no questions asked and move away. Put as much distance between yourself and the carjacker as quickly as possible in case the thief attempts to pursue you.

Remember... Your life is worth  
more than a car!

**Information You Need to Know:**

If your car is stolen, promptly report it to the police. Make sure you have the vehicle year, make, model, color, vehicle identification number (VIN) and license plate number available to help insure recovery.

**For further vehicle theft prevention information, call  
1-888-668-4433, log onto  
[www.azwatchyourcar.com](http://www.azwatchyourcar.com) or contact your  
local law enforcement agency.**

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