SHERIFF **J. EDWARD DARNELL**

Safety Tips for Children

As soon as a child is old enough to articulate a sentence, he or she can begin the process of learning how to protect themselves against abduction and exploitation. Children should be taught all of the following safety measures and tips.

WHO I AM AND WHERE I LIVE: Teach children about who they are including their full name, birthdate, complete address, phone number (including area code), and their parents' full names.

WHAT I DO IF I CAN'T FIND MY PARENTS: If you are in a public place and you get separated from your parents, don't wander around looking for them. Go to a checkout counter, the security office, or the lost and found. Tell the person in charge that you have lost your mom and dad and need help in finding them.

CHECK FIRST: Always check with your parents, teacher or babysitter before getting into a car or going anywhere with any person. CHECK FIRST before going into a neighbor's house. CHECK FIRST before going anywhere. Your parents need to know where you are.

USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM: It's more fun and there is safety in numbers. You should not be wandering around the neighborhood after dark or alone.

STAY AWAY: If someone follows you on foot or in a car, stay away from him or her. You shouldn't go near the car to talk to the people inside.

DON'T ASSIST ADULTS: No one should be asking you for directions or to look for a lost puppy or to ask for assistance. Adults should ask adults not children.

RUN, SCREAM, GET AWAY: If someone tries to take you away, your best defenses are your legs and your voices. Yell "This person is trying to take me." or "This isn't my father (or mother)." Try to run and scream before they get too close. Call 911 from any phone. It's a free call, you don't need money.

NEVER HITCHHIKE: Never hitch or try to get a ride home with anyone unless you have checked and your parents have told you it's O.K. to ride with that person.

DON'T KEEP SECRETS: Don't keep secrets that make you feel uncomfortable. No one should ask you to keep a special secret. Tell an adult that you trust.

YOUR BODY IS SPECIAL AND PRIVATE: No one should touch you in the parts covered by your bathing suit, nor should you touch anyone else in those areas.

KNOW THAT YOU ARE SPECIAL: If you have a problem, - any kind of a problem - you can talk to your parents, a teacher, a counselor, your principal, a police officer or a friend of the family.

YOU CAN CALL 911: If you have an emergency, or are in a situation where you feel you are in danger, CALL 911. You will get help.