

CRIME IN PROGRESS

If You Are a Victim or a Witness

Individuals who observe a crime, have a crime committed against them, or are involved in an emergency situation, should dial 359-7500 to notify the Office of Public Safety. In the case of a crime in progress you should dial 911 to notify the Sarasota Police Department. Do not take any unnecessary chances. The best way you can help in resolving a criminal incident is to BE A GOOD WITNESS. Make a mental note of, or if you can, write down, any information which may be helpful to the police. The Dispatcher will ask you for the following information at the same time police assistance is being sent:

Description of the person(s) involved
Nature of the incident
Location of the incident
Nature of injuries, if any
Type of weapons involved, if any
Location of perpetrator, if known
Direction of travel of the perpetrator, if known

When calling, stay calm and carefully explain the problem and location to the Dispatcher. **DO NOT HANG UP UNLESS TOLD TO DO SO BY THE DISPATCHER.** Emergency help is not being delayed because the Dispatcher is asking questions. The Dispatcher is directing police assistance by radio as you are providing the requested information.

Armed Robbery

If you are the victim of a robbery, comply with the perpetrator's demands, Stay as calm and alert as possible, noting as many characteristics of the perpetrator as possible. This may include manner of speech, accents, clothing description, statements made, direction of travel, scars or tattoos, and other distinguishing marks. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO OVERTAKE OR FIGHT OFF AN ARMED SUSPECT.** Avoid making provocative remarks, which may cause the perpetrator to become violent. Call the Sarasota Police Department (911) or the Ringling College of Art and Design Office of Public Safety (359-7500) after you are released and it is safe to do so.

Firearms Discharge

If you hear shots fired, or if a sniper is firing a weapon on or near campus, **TAKE COVER IMMEDIATELY** using all available concealment. Do nothing to attract the perpetrator's attention to you. Carefully observe as much about the perpetrator and the surroundings as possible. When the firing stops, or when you feel that it is safe to move, call the police immediately.

Hostage Situations

Do not attempt to fight back and struggle physically. No matter how "reasonable" your captors may appear on the surface, they cannot be trusted to behave normally and their actions may be unpredictable. Comply with the instructions of your abductors as well as you can.

Whenever possible, take note of the characteristics of your abductors, their habits, surroundings, speech mannerisms, and what contacts they make.

Avoid making provocative remarks to your abductors. They may react explosively and are likely to become violent.

Try to establish some kind of rapport with your captors