



Abington School District  
970 Highland Avenue  
Abington, PA 19001  
Phone (215) 884-4700



ABINGTON TOWNSHIP  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Abington Township Police Department  
1166 Old York Road  
Abington, PA 19001  
Phone (267) 536-1100

December 6, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We write regarding the several suspicious persons incidents that have been reported to the Abington Township Police Department and Abington School District in recent weeks. These incidents, about which information has been provided to parents/guardians of Highland Elementary School students on December 5, Overlook Elementary School students on December 4, and parents/guardians of all students on October 18, have been investigated and do not appear to be connected.

As Chief of Police and Superintendent of Schools, our number one priority is public safety and the safety of our students. Over the years, the police department has investigated numerous reports of suspicious persons that involved scenarios in which a child is approached by a stranger. In each of these cases, the Detective Division works tirelessly to identify the suspicious person in an effort to determine the circumstances surrounding the encounter and the suspicious person's intent. The police department and school district have had, and continue to have, a positive partnership in these investigations. Many times, through investigation, it is determined there was a legitimate misunderstanding and the suspicious person had no intent of causing harm to the child.

Both the school district and police department must balance the need to provide timely notification to the public, including parents/guardians, with the need to allow for completion of a preliminary investigation in order to verify the reports and minimize unnecessary alarm to our community, especially our children. We do believe that it is always better to err on the side of caution as we work together to notify you of these incidents in a timely manner. We also believe that it is always beneficial to raise awareness and promote personal safety and crime prevention best practices.

We encourage you to continue to discuss with your children what they should do if approached by a stranger. The following are important tips and strategies for children to protect themselves:

- Know your name, address, and phone number.
- Use the buddy system – avoid walking anywhere alone.
- Trust your instincts – if you feel you are being followed or something is not right, seek help immediately.
- If a stranger approaches you, you do not have to speak to him or her. Never approach a stranger in a motor vehicle. Just keep walking. Do not accept candy or any other items from a stranger. Never walk off with a stranger no matter what he or she tells you.
- If someone is following you, try to remember the license plate of his/her vehicle and immediately tell a trusted adult.
- If a stranger grabs you, do everything you can to stop him/her from pulling you away or dragging you into his/her car. Drop to the ground, kick, hit, bite, and scream. Do whatever it takes to attract the attention of others who can help you. If someone is dragging you away, scream, "this is not my dad," or "this is not my mom."

While sharing the above tips with your child is extremely important, the best way to teach stranger danger lessons is through role-playing scenarios. Discuss situations with your child and ask "if this happened, what would you do?"

Information regarding the two recent reports of suspicious persons is available at <https://www.abingtonpd.org/newsroom/community-alerts/>. If you have any relevant information to share regarding these recent incidents, please contact the Abington Township Police Department at (267) 620-1401.

Please know that the Abington School District and Abington Township Police Department will continue to work together for the safety of our students and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey S. Fecher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "F".

Jeffrey S. Fecher, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Abington School District

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Molloy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "M".

Patrick Molloy  
Chief of Police  
Abington Township Police Department