

WORST-CASE SCENARIO®

HOW TO TAIL A THIEF

- 1** Before attempting to follow someone who you believe has stolen from you, try to alter your appearance.
Remove your jacket, if you were wearing one; remove your shirt, if you are wearing a T-shirt underneath; put on or remove a hat or sunglasses. You do not want the thief to recognize you.
- 2** Never stare directly at the person you are following.
You can observe the person without being obvious. Never make eye contact.
- 3** Note the thief's identifying characteristics (dress, gait, height, and weight).
You will be able to keep track of the thief in a crowd (or after losing sight of him or her) if you are looking for particular details.
- 4** Stay well behind the person you are following.
Never tail a person by walking right behind him or her. Follow from a distance of at least 40 feet, or from across the street.
- 5** If the thief goes into a store, do not follow.
Remain outside, looking in the store window, or wait a few doors down for the thief to come out. If the thief does not emerge quickly, check for a back exit.

6 Once you have determined that the thief has arrived at his or her destination, call the authorities.

Confronting thieves alone is risky. Use a phone or ask a storeowner to call the police. Describe your target and his or her location.

Be Aware

- Wallet thieves and pickpockets often follow a similar pattern: They pass the wallet to another person immediately following the theft in order to throw you off the trail, and that person passes it to another. If you can, follow the initial thief: The thief may no longer be carrying your wallet, but might lead you to those who are.

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