Why would anyone carjack your vehicle?

- **To joyride or for use in the commission of another crime**
- **To ship the vehicle out of the country for a very lucrative profit**
- **To change its identification numbers and resell the vehicle for a substantial profit**
- **To dismantle the vehicle for its parts**
- **To sell to a scrap metal dealer for a hefty sum**

A carjacker already has the desire and the ability to take your vehicle - the only thing that the carjacker lacks is an *opportunity*.

Don't Provide the Opportunity!

Carjackers are determined to take the vehicle *without regard for the occupants*.

A vehicle is carjacked
every 11 hours
in the State of Maryland.

Don't
become a
statistic!

Carjacking is a Serious Crime

...and it's one you can avoid with awareness and preparation.

Participate in the Maryland

VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL

"YOU HOLD THE KEY" LOCK OUT CAR THEFT
MARYLAND VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL

MARYLAND
"Watch Your Car" Program

MARYLAND
Vehicle Theft Prevention Council
1201 Reisterstown Road
Pikesville, MD 21208
1-800-96-THEFT

www.MDAutoTheft.org

Carjacking

...you can lose more than just

Lock Out Car Theft!

"YOU HOLD THE KEY"
MARYLAND VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

MDAutoTheft.org

Preventing Carjacking Is Easier Than You Think!

Carjackers look for the right opportunity.

Generally, carjackers look for drivers slowing down, stopping, or getting into or out of their vehicle. That is why carjacking often occurs in parking lots and garages, at stop lights and signs and by the side of the road.

Prevention Tips

Approaching Your Vehicle

- Don't delay, move quickly and confidently with your keys in your hand **KEEP ALERT**
- Be aware of the surrounding area, any occupied cars, and check to make sure no one is hiding in or under your car
- Get into your vehicle and lock the doors **IMMEDIATELY**

Leaving Your Vehicle

- Check the surrounding area before exiting the vehicle
- Remove the keys and take them with you
- Lock the vehicle as soon as you exit it
- Move quickly away from your vehicle

Driving Your Vehicle

- Use well-traveled, well-lighted roads when you can
- Keep the doors locked
- Leave an escape route when you stop at intersections
- Be alert for anyone who seems to be watching your car
- If you are approached, do not lower your window or open the door
- Be especially alert when approaching automated teller machines
- When possible, use the center lane
- Check your mirrors often
- If you suspect you are being followed, do not go home. Drive to a police station or another safe public place
- Stay alert at all times

Parking Your Vehicle

- Reduce the distance to have to walk from your vehicle by parking as close to your destination as possible
- Look for parking spaces in well-lighted areas. Avoid parking near dumpsters, large vans, or trucks that would obstruct your view of where carjackers may hide
- Roll up your windows before parking
- Keep the vehicle locked until exiting
- Keep valuables out of sight

More Prevention Tips

- Avoid breakdowns by keeping your vehicle in good operating condition
- Have your vehicle windows etched with the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
- If threatened, use your car horn or alarm system to signal for help
- Register your vehicle with the Maryland "Watch Your Car" Program

Beware!

Carjackers may strike at Gas Stations and Convenience Stores or may deliberately bump your vehicle in traffic to get you to stop so they can take your car.

Stay Alert - Don't Be a Victim!

Learn more about Vehicle Theft Prevention at www.MDAutoTheft.org