



Frequently Asked Questions #27



HOW CAN I BE SAFE ON A FIRST DATE?

First dates are supposed to be impression dates, where the admirer shows you they are worthy of your interest. There are no rules when dating. Do things at the speed you feel comfortable with and both agree to. Get to know the person first, before getting too close.

Before the date:

1. Do a google search of your admirer's name in various formats; "first name surname", "surname, first name", "nickname, surname", etc. Try searching on all the social media platforms too.
2. Using the admirer's photo, do a Reverse Image Search using [Google](#) or [TinEye](#) to check if the image is with the same name and location on other sites.
3. Read the ACCC's [Little Black Book of Scams](#) section on 'Dating & Romance Scams' and be aware of all the risks. See also the '[Relationship Scams](#)' Fact Sheet from IDCare.

Arranging the date:

1. It is better to meet in a neutral public place, where there are plenty of people around. Consider an activity such as simply having a coffee. A shorter first date is an easier one to remove yourself from if you feel uncomfortable. Or perhaps at a bar/restaurant or an activity including your friends, eg bowling?
2. If the first date is the first time you've met, then it is advised you don't go to their home address, where they have control over the situation.
3. However, if you do decide to go to their address, check it out beforehand. Be aware of transportation; you don't want to be stranded. You might want to ask them why they want to meet at their home and let them know your concerns. If they aren't a bad person, they probably won't mind the questions. Some people may assume that by agreeing to go to their place it is a sign that you are willing to get intimate.
4. If you find yourself in a private place, such as a car, alleyway, or park, and you aren't comfortable with having sex, make that known.

FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property)	000
TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers)	1 800 333 000
TO REPORT NON-EMERGENCY CRIME (Police Assistance Line)	131 444
IF YOU'RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station)	9476 9799
TTY—To ask for Police, type PPP	106
SPEAK AND LISTEN	1800 555 727

ENGLISH

The date:

1. Tell a friend/family member the person's name and the address. Let them know how long you plan to be there.
2. Arrange for that friend to make a check-in call to you at a pre-arranged time during the date.
3. Consider sharing your real-time location using a mobile phone App (eg Glympse, Google maps, Find my Friends).
4. Trust your instincts and use all safety precautions.
5. Don't leave your drink unattended.
6. Have an escape plan if things go bad. If you take your own car, you have an easier escape.
7. Carry emergency cash.

Escape plan:

1. If the date is going badly, use your friend's check-in call to pretend that your friend is having an emergency and needs your help right away.
2. Give an excuse to leave, such as forgotten medication, a migraine is beginning, etc.
3. Have an SMS text pre-typed in, ready to hit 'send' to your friend in an emergency. Go to the bathroom to use your phone discreetly.
4. Arrange for a friend to 'unexpectedly' bump into you at your location.
5. Talk to staff at the location using the code "Can I speak to Angela?", or order an "Angel Shot" as a signal that you need assistance.

After the date:

1. Don't get in a car with someone who has been drinking.
2. Please be community-minded and warn others by reporting suspicious people/behaviour to the local police. Also report to any dating site - on the App, go to their profile and select 'Report', or 'Suspicious Profile' (depending on the App). Reporting is always anonymous.

Other related advice:

Don't exchange intimate photographs.

This information was compiled by volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799. Tips and other resources are available to download free from the Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website: au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org/Tips/.

See also the community's one-stop-shop of crime prevention information: WatchOut.org.au.

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