**THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF AGENT SAFETY**

We can always learn from others. I found this on the NAR website. The Birmingham Association of REALTORS® first released its “[10 Commandments of Agent Safety](http://birminghamrealtors.com/wp-content/uploads/Ten-Commandments-Agent-Safety.pdf)” in 1988 and has been using its list of strategies to teach its members how to be safe on the job ever since.

See this hasn't just happened folks. This has been around for quite some time. It's time to take it seriously.

Here are the association’s commandments for agent safety:

**1. Do not meet a stranger at any property.** Instead, ask to meet at your office or in a public place so others can see the potential buyer too. Take a partner, like another agent or family member, with you, too.

**2. Take your car.** Avoid riding in a stranger’s car.

**3. Avoid working after dark.** Try to show property only during the daylight and close open houses before dark. If working after sundown is unavoidable, buddy up with a partner.

**4. Dress for safety.** Dress professionally and avoid wearing expensive, flashy jewelry. Do not carry large amounts of money with you.

**5. Arrange a showing itinerary.** Use a standard form and always leave a copy at the office or with a family member. Be sure to let the client knows that a copy exists, too.

**6. Use a prospect ID form.** Prior to showing a property, have a printed form that asks for a prospect’s information: name, address, auto make and model, auto tag, driver’s license, local address, and two references. Verify the information before you leave.

**7. Use an agent ID form.** Make sure your office knows your car's make and model and license tag, plus any other important contact information.

**8. Set a coded distress signal.** Be able to call the office or home with a message that appears harmless to a prospect but would serve as an alert to others that you’re in harm's way. Let's use the words **"Red File".** For example say you have to tell your office about a file you need. Call the office and say you need your red file on your desk.

**9. Stop working immediately if you pick up on something suspicious.**  If you notice inconsistent answers from your client, or any abnormal behavior, or anything that signals that something is off, stop working and trust your gut instincts.

**10. Notify your broker immediately.** The broker should decide what action to take at that time.

*Source: "*[*The 10 Commandments of Real Estate Agent Safety*](http://www.bizjournals.com/birmingham/news/2014/10/01/the-10-commandments-of-real-estate-agent-safety.html?page=all)*," Birmingham Business Journal (Alabama) (Oct. 1, 2014)*