

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PATROL INSTRUCTIONS

1. WHEN POSSIBLE, PATROL WITH A PARTNER. This is not only a safety measure but also provides an additional witness and assistance in case of trouble.
2. TRANSPORTATION. Walk, drive or both, depending upon weather conditions and coordination with your assigned partner.
3. SCHEDULE. Any hour of the day or night is acceptable and appreciated.
4. ROUTE. Stay within your neighborhood, and the areas you are most familiar with.
5. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT. Carry at least (1) flashlight per patrol during nighttime hours. If driving, affix the magnetic car sign to your vehicle. If walking, wear a reflective vest to identify yourself. Patrol logbooks or pads and pencils should be carried.
6. PATROL UNARMED. Firearms and weapons are strictly prohibited. *Remember that we are the eyes and ears of the community and sheriff's office, not a vigilante group.*
7. REPORTING. If it looks suspicious, report it. If you suspect criminal activity, observe a crime in progress, or see evidence of a crime, one patrol member should contact the sheriff's office immediately, identify yourself, the watch group and provide assistance, if it is possible to do so safely.
8. AVOID VERBAL AND PHYSICAL ENCOUNTERS AND DON'T ATTEMPT TO DETAIN ANY PERSON AGAINST THEIR WILL. This might not only be dangerous, but a violation of their civil or legal rights. *(Remember eyes and ears only)*
9. TRY TO IDENTIFY VICTIMS/WITNESSES AND URGE THEM TO FILE A FORMAL COMPLAINT. Many crimes are never reported, remain unsolved, or offenders are not punished because people refuse to get involved.
10. MAINTAIN "HIGH VISIBILITY" DURING PATROL. It's just as important for potential lawbreakers to see us as it is for us to see them. Our aim is protection, not a high arrest record.
11. ALWAYS PUT SAFETY FIRST. Unnecessary heroics are out of place on patrol.

I, the undersigned Neighborhood Watch member, have read and received a copy of the accompanying eleven (11) point Neighborhood Watch Patrol Instructions sheet provided by the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and agree to adhere to these guidelines.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Neighborhood Watch: \_\_\_\_\_

Florida Statute 843.20

843.20 Harassment of participant of neighborhood crime watch program prohibited; penalty; definitions.—

(1) It shall be a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for any person to willfully harass, threaten, or intimidate an identifiable member of a neighborhood crime watch program while such member is engaged in, or traveling to or from, an organized neighborhood crime watch program activity or a member who is participating in an ongoing criminal investigation, as designated by a law enforcement officer.

(2) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Harass" means to engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person which causes substantial emotional distress in that person and serves no legitimate purpose.

(b) "Organized neighborhood crime watch program activity" means any prearranged event, meeting, or other scheduled activity, or neighborhood patrol, conducted by or at the direction of a neighborhood crime watch program or the program's authorized designee.