

# Helpful Information and Tips

## *Ferguson Township Police Department*



### Contacting Police

- Ferguson Township Police are available to assist you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.
- When you need help or your gut tells you to report something, consider it an emergency and **call 9-1-1**.
- If you need to report a crime, suspicious vehicles or activity, car crash, an injured person or animal, someone in harm's way, or something you have witnessed, contact the police immediately. **Don't wait!**
- In an emergency, please do not use email, Facebook, or after-hours phone messages.  
**For non-emergencies, call 1.800.479.0050**

### Theft Prevention

- Each and every time you leave your apartment, lock your doors.
- Keep your doors and windows locked.
- Be a good neighbor and report suspicious people in the apartment complex.
- Keep your porch light on at night.
- Remove any packages from your porch each day. Do not have packages delivered when you are not in town. If you must have packages sent, have them delivered to the office or ask a trusted neighbor to pick up and hold them for you until your return.

### Protecting Your Vehicle

- Always lock your vehicle and keep items of value out of sight, or preferably, not in your vehicle at all. This will discourage break-ins and thefts.
- Make sure you pay any parking tickets you receive right away. Fines increase if not paid and your vehicle may be immobilized and/or towed.

### Traffic Rules and Regulations

- All vehicles parked on a public roadway must park with traffic and must have current registration and inspection. Streets throughout the community are posted with signs that identify parking restrictions. Please look for the signs to avoid being ticketed or towed.
- When it snows 2 or more inches, you must remove your vehicle from public roads to allow plows access.
- After living in Pennsylvania for more than a year, a valid PA Driver's License is required.
- Driving without a license is a serious offense and will result in a ticket and your vehicle being towed.
- A flashing red signal is the same as a **STOP** sign. You must stop and make sure both directions are clear before you proceed. A flashing yellow signal means you should proceed through the intersection using caution.
- If you are ever stopped by the police while driving your vehicle, pull to the right side of the roadway and stop. Remain in your vehicle until the officer makes contact with you and then follow his/her instructions.
- Texting while driving is illegal. Avoid using your phone while driving to help avoid a crash.

## **Taking Care of Your Pets**

- All dogs over three months old are required to be licensed and must have rabies vaccinations.
- Pets must be leashed. Except within the confines of Tudek Dog Park, dogs are not allowed to run at large and must be under the control of the person with them.
- Pets must never be left alone in your dwelling while you are on break or otherwise out of town. Please take them home with you or board them.
- Pennsylvania's animal cruelty laws revised in 2017 include new protections and penalties for cold weather. Dogs cannot be tethered for extended periods of time — no more than 30 minutes in temperatures exceeding 90 degrees or below 32 degrees. Your pets must have a sanitary shelter (clear of excessive waste), water and shade. The law also prohibits choke, pinch, prong or chain collars.

## **Protecting Yourself from Scams and Fraud**

Ferguson Township Police encourage residents to be aware of common scams. Attempts to scam people out of their money are made throughout the year.

### ***Scams come as phone calls, emails and most recently as text messages. Some common scams:***

- Scammer claims to be a bank advising they need a moment of your time and requests private information that — if given — can allow access to your account.
- Scammer claims to be a representative of a law enforcement agency, pretending there is an arrest warrant and threatening you with incarceration if a fine is not paid. The suspect directs you to use a Green Dot MoneyPak or Apple iTunes card to pay the fine. Typically, the scammer will “spoof” his or her own phone number so that your caller ID will display 9-1-1 or another law enforcement agency phone number.
- Scammer convinces you to send payments for promised prizes, loans, jobs, discounted products or other financial awards upfront through a Western Union wire transfer. They also pretend to be family members in need of cash or law enforcement officers demanding payment. No one receives the cash, prizes or services they are promised.
- Scammer pretends to be the IRS advising that you owe taxes. The IRS will NOT contact you by phone. Scammers also have claimed to be the Department of Education advising students they owe money on student loans.
- Scammer calls and threatens to physically harm you if you do not send money. Scammers may also advise that they have a family member hostage and will injure them if you do not send money.
- When selling something online, the scammer offers to pay more than the seller requested. The scammer sends a fake check including the extra money and asks the victim to send the extra money back. The victim loses the product and money because the check is fake.

### ***Avoid being a victim of fraud:***

Remember that you cannot trust everyone who calls or emails you. Most scammers use phone and Internet contacts from outside of the United States and law enforcement does not have the jurisdiction to prosecute or retrieve your money. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is! Some ways to prevent fraud:

- Don't agree to anything over the phone. If you can see the caller's number, make a note of it. Search the Internet for the number to determine its source.
- Never follow instructions to purchase a money or gift card for payment. Scammers will ask you to purchase a card and read the numbers over the phone. This allows them access to your funds.
- Do not give out personal information such as your Social Security number, date of birth, account numbers and such over the phone.
- Never click on a link in a questionable e-mail. If you want to follow up with a business or company you believe is attempting to reach you, use your Internet browser to search for its URL address.

## **Questions about the Law**

If you ever feel you may be a victim of a crime or just have a question about the law, please visit the FTPD web page at [www.twp.ferguson.pa.us](http://www.twp.ferguson.pa.us). If you still have questions, please contact the FTPD at **814.237.1172** or email [police@twp.ferguson.pa.us](mailto:police@twp.ferguson.pa.us)