

## SECTION 2: SAFETY AT WORK

# PROTECT YOUR CLIENTS AGAINST CRIME

Consider these tips in helping your clients protect themselves against crime:

- Remind clients who are selling their house or condominium that strangers will be walking through their home. Tell them to put any valuables in a safe, secure place. This includes items they might not initially think would attract interest: Recently, the San Diego Police Department reported that an individual was going through medicine cabinets at open houses and stealing the owners' prescription drugs. Suggest that they hide any such items.
- Don't leave your own briefcase, purse, laptop or cell phone in view. (You should have that phone on your person at all times anyway.) Wear clothing with pockets so that you can always have your car keys with you as well, and never carry large amounts of cash or credit cards.
- At an open house, be alert to the pattern of visitors' arrivals, especially near the end of showing hours. In some areas, group of thieves will show up together near the end of the open house and, while a string of "potential buyers" distracts the REALTOR®, the rest of the group walks through the house, stealing any valuables they come across.
- Finally, when you leave a client's property, whether after an open house or a standard showing, make sure that all doors and windows are locked. Thieves commonly use open houses to scout for valuables and possible points of entry, then return after the agent leaves.
- Let your clients know that you will take all of the above safety precautions, but that when they return home, they should immediately verify that all doors are locked and all valuables accounted for.

Source: Nevada County Board of REALTORS® (CA)

SECTION 2  
HANDOUT

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