



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Police Stress Stranger Safety Following Two Suspicious Incidents**

Howard County Police are encouraging parents to remind their children of general personal safety rules, including ways to safely handle situations involving strangers, following two unrelated suspicious incidents this week.

Police were called yesterday afternoon to the Cradlerock School in Columbia for a report of a suspicious subject. An 8-year-old boy reported that a woman asked him to get into her blue van as he waited for his father to pick him up from school. He described the woman as a white female. The boy did not get into the van and reported the incident to a school employee.

Police were contacted Tuesday by a parent who reported a similar, but unrelated, case. She told police that her 12-year-old son was approached by a man in a blue Ford Focus as the boy rode his scooter near the 4300 block of Cross Country Drive in Ellicott City. The boy reported that the man, a white male, asked him to get into the car and he refused. The boy went home and reported the incident to his parent.

Police have received no other reports involving subjects or vehicles matching these descriptions.

For more information about personal safety, parents can visit the Howard County Police Department's Web site at [www.hcpd.org](http://www.hcpd.org).

Anyone with information about either of these incidents should call police at (410) 313-3200.

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