

**FBI**

**1-202-324-3000**

## ICV VICTIM ASSISTANCE

contact information

[Internationalcruisevictims.org](http://Internationalcruisevictims.org)



Brochure provided by  
**The International  
Cruise Victims Association, Inc.**

For more information go to  
[www.internationalcruisevictims.org](http://www.internationalcruisevictims.org)

*This brochure is published in loving memory  
and honor of all victims of cruise ship crime,  
some of whom are pictured below.*



**Don't Snooze  
Before You Cruise**

**You're about to depart  
on your dream vacation.**

We have a few tips to keep  
your vacation *truly* "carefree."

The International Cruise Victims Association, Inc.



## Things you should know before you leave port:

- While most cruise ships' home ports are in the United States, they are actually registered in foreign countries like Panama, Liberia or the Bahamas — thereby avoiding US taxes, US labor laws and other US regulations related to safety. This means that when an American passenger steps onto a cruise ship in an American port, that passenger is stepping onto a piece of foreign territory outside the jurisdiction of the US.
- The #1 crime reported on cruise ships is sexual assault.
- Medical personnel onboard are actually considered "independent contractors." Because of this, the cruise lines are not even vicariously liable for the care they provide.
- Be sure you keep track of your ticket and read the small print.

## Think your US laws go with you?

- Consider purchasing special travel insurance and medical travel assistance plans before you go.
- Remember that all security personnel and crew are employed by the cruise line. Their employer's best interests will go ahead of yours.
- Shore-based excursions are separate entities, and even when they're booked through the cruise line your safety and their reliability cannot be guaranteed. Do your homework in advance.
- Cellular service is now available for your regular cell phone while on a cruise. Call your provider and make arrangements for coverage while on your trip.

## Things you can do:

- Be vigilant. Use the buddy system on the ship and set rules for your children who can be particularly vulnerable. Be aware of your surroundings, especially in public places, such as swimming pools, casinos, and nightclubs.
- Always check your cabin thoroughly when you enter, including the bathroom and closet, while your door is still open. Check your locks to make sure they work and then remember to use them. Never open your door to strangers.
- Never let your key card out of your sight.
- Be aware that the lawful drinking age and legal limits for alcohol consumption, even legal age for sexual consent as we know it ashore, may not apply on a cruise.

## Free alcohol doesn't mean carefree

- Be aware of the use of date rape drugs and only drink beverages that you have witnessed being prepared. Ask that bottles come unopened. This goes for when you are in ports as well.
- Leave valuables at home. The FBI will not investigate any property crime under \$10,000 in value.

## If something happens:

- If you should witness someone go overboard, don't jump in after them but report it to the crew immediately, always keeping your eyes on the victim and pointing to him or her.

## Medical care can be unreliable

- Should you or someone with you become ill and you are not receiving the care you require, you can ask to be sent to the hospital at the nearest port.
- Refer to the fine print on your ticket for information on where and when to file a complaint.
- If you or your companions become the victim of a crime on board, or if you believe someone is missing, immediately contact the FBI at **1-202-324-3000**.
- The Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2010 requires the cruise line to provide you with a passenger's bill of rights; ask to see it.