

ICV VICTIM ASSISTANCE



FBI

1-202-324-3000

**US Coast Guard via
The National Maritime Center**

US Domestic:

1-888-427-5662

Intl:

1-304-433-3400 ext. 0

Brochure provided by

**The International Cruise Victims
Association, Inc.**

For more information go to
www.internationalcruisevictims.org
or call: **(818) 355-6462 | (916)-769-3444**
(562)-889-7778

*This brochure is published in loving memory
and in honor of all victims of cruise ship crime.*



The International Cruise Victims Association, Inc.

Don't Snooze Before You Cruise

*Here are some things
you should know*



Utilize the following to assist you on your cruise:

- 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 they are stepping onto foreign territory and automatically relinquishing many of their US protective laws and rights.

If you are a non-US citizen please make sure you are aware of the laws and rights of protection your country provides.

Things you should know before you leave port:

- The #1 crime reported on cruise ships is sexual assault, 1/3 of which are committed against minors.
- Medical personnel onboard are actually considered "independent contractors." Because of this, the cruise lines do not consider themselves vicariously liable for the care they provide.
- Be sure to keep track of your ticket and contract. Read and thoroughly understand your rights.

Think your US laws go with you?

- Consider purchasing special travel insurance and medical travel assistance plans before you go.
- Shore-based excursions are separate entities booked through the cruise line and your safety and their reliability cannot be guaranteed.
- 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. Always stay aware of your surroundings. Know how to contact your embassy should you need assistance while traveling.
- Check your cabin door locks to make sure they work and then remember to use them. Never open your door to strangers.
- Be aware that the lawful drinking age and serving limits, even the legal age for sexual consent as we know it, may not apply on a cruise. Watch out for date rape drugs by making sure you witness the preparation of any drinks you are served.
- Remember a ship is just like a city, except there are NO POLICE. Existing security personnel are employed by the cruise line. Their employer's best interests will go ahead of yours.
- Most supervised teen activities end at 11p.m. Therefore, to lessen your child's exposure to danger or foul play, parents are urged to issue strict curfews. Anytime your child is out of your sight, BEWARE! Do not assume their safety is assured.

If the unthinkable should occur:

- 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.
- If you or your companions become the victim of a crime on board, or if you believe someone is missing, **be aware that you have the right to contact the FBI immediately yourself at 1-202-324-3000.**
- The ICV sponsored Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2010 requires the cruise lines to provide you with the passenger's Bill of Rights/Security Guide; ask to see it.

