



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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EXECUTIVE

- ADMINISTRATION
- COMMUNICATIONS
- INTERVENTION & PREVENTION PROGRAMS
- PUBLIC POLICY
- LEGISLATION
- VICTIM WITNESS BUREAU

TRIAL TEAMS

- CAMBRIDGE REGION SUPERIOR COURT
- MALDEN REGION SUPERIOR COURT
- WOBURN DISTRICT COURT

SPECIALTY UNITS

- APPEALS & TRAINING BUREAU
- CYBER PROTECTION PROGRAM
- FAMILY PROTECTION BUREAU
- CHILD ABUSE UNIT
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT
- ELDER/DISABLED UNIT
- PUBLIC PROTECTION, ANTI-TERRORISM, CORRUPTION & TECHNOLOGY (PACT)

STATE POLICE DETECTIVES

- COMPUTER FORENSICS
- HOMICIDE
- PACT

REGIONAL OFFICES

- CAMBRIDGE
- FRAMINGHAM
- LOWELL

DISTRICT COURT OFFICES

- AYER
- CAMBRIDGE
- CONCORD
- FRAMINGHAM
- LOWELL
- MALDEN
- MARLBOROUGH
- NEWTON
- SOMERVILLE
- WALTHAM
- WOBURN



September 4, 2013

Dear Middlesex County Parents and Guardians,

As the newly appointed Middlesex County District Attorney, I would like to extend my best wishes to you as the school year begins. Through my tenure in the Middlesex District Attorney's Office and as a mother of two children, I have developed a deep appreciation of the educational system and the enormous responsibility that schools have, not only to educate students but to also keep them safe. I am collaborating with all of the superintendents in Middlesex County to reduce risks to students.

Attendance and Tardiness

It is imperative that students attend school each day, in order to learn. Punctuality is not only essential for school success; it is a life skill, preparing students for the eventual world of work. Every fall, a letter, signed by your school superintendent, school principal and myself, is sent to remind you of your obligations to have your child in school. It is imperative that your child attends school regularly unless they are medically unable to be in school.

Bullying

Every adult plays an important role in addressing bullying and making schools and communities a safe, caring, and respectful place for children. Bullying can take many forms, such as hitting or punching (physical bullying); teasing or name-calling (verbal bullying); intimidation using gestures or social exclusion (nonverbal bullying or emotional bullying); unwanted sexual contact (sexual bullying); and sending insulting messages by e-mail or social media sites (cyber bullying). Every child has a right to have school be a comfortable and positive setting. Your child/children should never be fearful of another child or of going to school. Parents/guardians should collaborate with school authorities or your child's teacher to address any alleged bullying. Please contact school officials if you have any questions or concerns.

Cyber Safety

Technology can be a powerful, positive tool. However, social networking sites such as Facebook, texting with cell phones and using blogs and chat rooms

have resulted far too often in problems such as cyber bullying. I urge you to monitor online behavior and be aware that there are legal implications for activities such as possessing and/or disseminating naked photographs of children under the age of 18, making threats of physical violence and stealing another's identity. Also, please be vigilant since child predators frequently use the internet to entice unsuspecting children and teens.

Stranger Safety

A stranger is anyone you or your children do not know well or don't trust. Be sure your child knows his/her phone number, address, your cell phone or work number, and how to call 911 for emergencies. Teach your child the following:

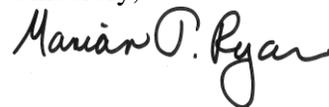
- Don't accept rides from anyone unless they have spoken with you directly.
- Remind them if anyone follows or approaches them in a vehicle they should turn and walk/run the other way to find a trusted person to help.
- Instruct your child NEVER to talk to strangers or accept gifts from strangers.

As stated above, stranger safety guidelines also pertain to the cyber world, as many predators use the internet to abduct children/teens.

Working with Middlesex County schools to protect our children has been a focus of mine throughout my career and that continues as the Middlesex District Attorney. I urge you to establish a close working relationship with your child's teacher(s), principal, and other building-based staff. Together, we can successfully address the challenges that youth face in today's complex and ever changing world.

Please visit the Middlesex District Attorney's website <http://middlesexda.com/> for contact information, along with additional information and [tips on safety](#). The staff of the Middlesex District Attorney's Office is available to help serve and protect you.

Sincerely,



Marian Ryan
Middlesex District Attorney