

Be Proactive

(when your child turns 18 and is not married)



1. Become your child's Power of Attorney
A Power of Attorney (POA) gives someone permission to act on your behalf in legal matters, such as writing checks or signing official documents. There are different types of POAs but the most comprehensive is a durable POA. A durable POA remains in effect if your child become unable to handle their affairs (incapacitation, missing). Anyone can set up a POA for free and there are many examples on the internet. Search "POA" for your State. Important information to include in a POA would be access to: bank accounts; rental property; income taxes; employment benefits (e.g. pay, retirement accounts, life insurance).
2. Help your child create an emergency packet to be kept in a safe place that only you and your child know about and have access to. The packet should include:
 - a. Copy of current driver's license, student ID card, passport, social security card, spare keys to car and home.
 - b. List of all accounts with username and password: include computer; cell phone; bank accounts; credit cards; social media accounts; school accounts.
3. Talk about GEO Location Apps on cell phones
 - a. Understand how they work
 - b. Do not always have location apps on
 - c. If walking alone, share location by sending a text to parent or friend
4. iCloud Back-up
 - a. Keep cell phone backed up to computer so that phone storage space is not lost (e.g. pictures and music use a lot of storage space) or
 - b. Pay a monthly fee to have more storage so that information is not lost
5. Talk about Safety
 - a. Be aware of your surroundings
 - b. Do not travel alone; walking, biking, running or traveling is always best in pairs
 - c. If you must walk alone to your car, have your keys in hand, ready to hit the panic button to set off the car alarm if you are approached by a stranger
 - d. When using Uber/Lyft; confirm drive; style of car; license plate before entering car and always tag someone to let them know how you are traveling so that Uber/Lyft are also aware and if any doubt, do not enter vehicle
 - e. Be prepared; make plans for what you would do in an emergency