

Subject: FW: Selling Vehicles Through Classified Ads

Date: Wed, 5 Jan 2005 11:12:48 -0800

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

I am passing this on to you for your information. You may distribute it as you wish.

Ernie Crist

-----Original Message-----

From: Kelly WEEKS [<mailto:kelly.weeks@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2005 11:03 AM

To: bfearnley@cnv.org; bperrault@cnv.org; bsharp@cnv.org; ckeating@cnv.org; Darrell Mussatto; rclark@cnv.org; rheywood@cnv.org; Alan Nixon; Ernie Crist; Janice Harris; Lisa Muri; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Richard Walton

Cc: crabold@cnv.org; ktollstam@cnv.org; Jeanine Bratina; Colleen Brow; James Ridge

Subject: Selling Vehicles Through Classified Ads

There are many ways of selling merchandise that you no longer wish to hold onto. Many people choose to do this on their own and discard the middleman. If you choose this route there are several tips to keep in mind to help make it a safer experience for you and to assist in eliminating an opportunity that criminals may want to embark upon.

It is at the sellers discretion to place ads on various items that he/she is looking to sell, however, some items, such as vehicles, may attract the wrong buyer. In fact the buyer may not intend on buying the vehicle at all and you may find yourself out the cash you were asking for as well as the item you were attempting to sell. To protect yourself against possible theft there are a few tips you can follow to help protect yourself against it.

When placing a classified ad to sell a vehicle never give out your home phone number and address. Meet the potential buyer in a busy public place, not a remote area. If possible attend the meeting ground with a friend or two. There is something to be said for "safety in numbers." If you have a non-traceable email, then this may be a more effective, safe way that the interested party could contact you. Or by cell phone number. The meeting place should be on your terms. Never feel pressured or rushed into a sale by the caller and never believe that the caller is being completely truthful. Trust your instincts. If the caller does not sound legitimate, than discontinue negotiations with them. If you decide to meet the caller, do not simply hand over the keys and let them test drive it. This is a means that many criminals use to steal the car, especially the higher end models. If you trust the wrong person, you may never see your car again. Ask the buyer to see his/her drivers licence. If they are requesting to drive your vehicle, they will need a valid drivers licence to do so. If they do not have a drivers licence with them, that should be a red flag to you and any request for a test drive should be denied. The best option is to go with the person for the test drive and bring your friend with you if that makes you more comfortable. Remember that auto theft is a crime of opportunity and offering to ride with the potential thief may reduce or eliminate this opportunity for them. If you have negotiated a deal, ensure that you are comfortable with the method of payment. If you are satisfied with taking a cheque, make sure the cheque is approved and the money is in your account before releasing the vehicle, otherwise cash and money orders are a safe route.

To recap:

- 1 - Don't give out your home phone number or address
- 2 - Meet in a public place
- 3 - Bring a friend along
- 4 - Trust your instincts
- 5 - Obtain a drivers licence from the interested party

- 6 - Go along for the test drive
- 7 - Receive your payment by a money order or cash
- 8 - Ensure the method of payment is legitimate

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