

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO TO PROM



## HOW TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ON PROM NIGHT

The City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) encourages prom-goers and their parents to take the following simple precautions when planning for the big event.

- Research the business before you make a purchase or secure transportation. Make sure that the business is properly licensed, check their rating with the Better Business Bureau, and look for prior customer reviews.

### VERIFY LICENSES

- Limos and charter (party) buses providing transportation in the City of Chicago must be licensed. Make sure the vehicle you are hiring to drive in the City of Chicago has its required licenses by visiting the "Public Passenger Vehicle License" dataset on the City's Data Portal at <https://data.cityofchicago.org>.
- Ensure that your limo driver has a valid City of Chicago Public Chauffeur license by searching the "Public Chauffeur" dataset on the City's Data Portal.
- In Illinois, the driver of any vehicle transporting 16 or more persons, including the driver, must carry a commercial driver's license (CDL) with a Passenger Endorsement (P) issued by the State of Illinois.
- Licensee shall include its City account number (IRIS number) on all advertising materials, print or electronic, and on each contract. In addition, City of Chicago Public Vehicle License Number should be on the door panel.

### ENSURE A SAFE, SECURE & LAWFUL EXPERIENCE

- Beware of vehicles stretched or modified over 10 feet. Stretch vehicles that do not have certified modifications may endanger the lives of passengers that are not able to exit during an accident or emergency.
- Obtain a direct phone number for driver or chauffeur on duty and the business.
- Parents and teens should discuss a safety plan for various situations that may arise. Teens must know that they can and should call parents if they are in an unsafe situation and parents should be ready to answer the call.
- City of Chicago laws require an owner or driver of a charter vehicle to prohibit or report to the police any passenger: (1) who is under the age of 21 to possess or consume alcoholic beverages; (2) to engage in disorderly conduct; (3) to possess any drug paraphernalia; (4) to unlawfully possess a firearm; (5) to discharge a weapon firearm; (6) to hurl projectiles from the vehicle; (7) to commit indecent exposure; (8) to litter; or (9) to unlawfully possess or use marijuana cannabis or any controlled substance.
- For vehicles with fifteen or more passengers that include the opportunity for passengers to consume alcoholic liquor, the charter/sightseeing licensee is responsible for securing a licensed security guard and ensuring there is fully operational security cameras installed during the trip or at an interim stop on the trip (i.e. a stop other than the point of origin or final destination).

### AVOID FRAUD OR UNWARRANTED FEES

- Before signing a contract to purchase a service or product: read the fine print; look for overage charges and hidden fees; and make sure that the contract includes all of the details of your event or trip, including the time of pick-up and drop-off, your full itinerary, the make, model, and year of the vehicle you have chosen, and the number of people traveling.
- Request a receipt and a copy of the contract. Make sure you obtain receipts for all payments.
- Many companies require a deposit at the time of booking. Ask about the terms of the deposit, such as how much is required, and whether it is refundable in the event of cancellation.
- Check the refund and cancellation policies. Some companies have strict cancellation policies, so find out if you are able to cancel once you hire your limousine or bus and what your deadline is to do so.

REPORT SCAMS TO BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND  
CONSUMER PROTECTION BY CALLING 3-1-1



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