

Private Car Service Safety Tips

When it comes to comfort and convenience, private car services such as Uber and Lyft are hard to beat. No matter where you are, with the click of a button, you can have access to a clean, comfortable car and a pleasant driver. However, as apps like Uber and Lyft have become more popular and their reach has grown so has potential criminal abuse and vetting by these companies can be lessened by pressures to expand their market. Crimes, such as rape, have recently appeared in our local paper and you should take the appropriate steps to ensure that you stay as safe as possible during your trips. Following are a few safety tips to help you.

Private Car Services — Staying Safe

- **If you are able, always ride with a friend, and if you are intoxicated, this is very important.**
- Verify the identity of the driver and the car. Apps provide riders with their driver's first name, photo, license plate number, driver rating, and a picture of the vehicle. Practice good safety and use this information to verify your car and driver before getting in. Ask to see the driver's phone to double-check their name and that they are, in fact, your assigned driver.
- Smart safety doesn't apply only inside the car. Wait in a safe area for your ride to arrive. Private vehicles are great in that they allow you to wait safely for your driver. Stay indoors or somewhere well-lit while waiting — you'll get a notification when your car has arrived.
- Share your trip details. This is an excellent safety feature – a clickable option rarely used by riders. However, with the click of a button, you can text your trip details, including destination, ETA and a specific route to anyone you like. Share your trip details with a friend or family member — just in case.
- Pay attention to driver ratings. Driver ratings are there for a reason. The rating system encourages good behavior on both the part of the driver and the passenger, as each rate the other. If your driver displays inappropriate behavior, rate him poorly and submit a comment giving a reason for the rating. Uber's customer service team, in particular, is very active and will respond to you within hours, even minutes.
- **Numbers increase safety, so share a ride with a friend.**