



Know Your Ride Share Driver

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Many Americans have embraced Uber, and similar services, as a means of convenient and safe transportation, especially after a night out with friends. Most people have, or will, utilize a ride hailing service. Recently 21-year-old college student Samantha Josephson got into what she believed to be the Uber she'd summoned; it was not. Fourteen hours later she was found murdered.

Ride services identify their drivers by name, a photo and license plate number delivered to the client's smart phone. This is useful but may leave room for error when the driver arrives. The pictures are small and often lack sufficient clarity to compare with and identify the driver. Many states only have plates on the rear of the vehicle, and drivers may change vehicles without updating their profile. At busy curbsides, checking

license plates may be awkward, and makes and models of vehicles may be difficult to discern.

To be sure that the vehicle you are about to enter is the one you summoned, you should ask the driver two simple questions.

First, ask the driver, "What is my name?" If the driver does not answer correctly, do not get in the car. Second, ask the driver, "What is your name?" If the driver's response does not match the information provided when you booked the ride, do not get in the car.

Enhancing personal safety requires planning and practice. Planning and practice lead to habit forming behavior. If you or your children use Uber or similar ride services, these precautionary measures should be taken as a matter of habit. ☑