



# Distraction Crime



- ✚ **What is it?** This type of crime usually involves two or more culprits, but can be one. The MO is to distract you and whilst distracted your property is stolen.
- ✚ **Where does it take place?** More often in supermarket car parks, but can be in street or in coffee shop terraces. Here are four examples:
- ✚ You come out of a supermarket and your car tyre is flat. You open your car door, place your handbag on the seat. A person (culprit one) offers and helps change the wheel and whilst you are attending to this an accomplice steals the item.
- ✚ You are pushing your shopping trolley and a person asks for directions. Whilst you are assisting the accomplice steals your handbag from the trolley.
- ✚ You are at a coffee shop terrace and have placed your phone on the table. A person approaches you and places a folder on the table over your phone offering to sell something which appears attractive. You decline and whilst distracted the person picks up his document together with your phone underneath and leaves.
- ✚ Similar to the above you are at the table and the culprit causes a distraction. Whilst you look away an accomplice steals an item from the table.
- ✚ There are many more. If you are approached by anyone you do not know always exercise caution and do not leave valuable items on display or unattended.

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