

Hate Crime Prevention Tips for Sikh Taxi and Rideshare Drivers



With the rise of attacks motivated by hate, we urge all Sikh taxi and rideshare drivers to exercise caution. If you believe someone committed a crime against you or your property because you are Sikh or because of your identity/background, it may be a hate crime. For support, please call the Sikh Coalition at 212-655-3095 or visit www.sikhcoalition.org/legalhelp

Be aware and alert at all times

- Keep windows rolled up so no one can reach in.
- If local rules and regulations permit, consider keeping your front doors locked, unless a passenger is getting in or out.
- Learn the local rules and regulations on how to handle passengers who become disorderly or are intoxicated.
- If local rules and regulations permit, avoid seating passengers in the front of the vehicle (when it is not a reasonable request).
- Greet, smile, and look at all passengers so that you can identify them later, if need be.
- Always confirm the passenger's destination before driving away.

In case of unruly passengers or an attack

1. Activate emergency signals or buttons.
2. Turn on cameras if not already on.
3. Ask passengers to exit the vehicle immediately.
4. Notice and memorize as many details as possible about your passenger(s) to share with emergency officials.
5. Get to a safe location and call 911 immediately (please be aware that law enforcement should not ask you about your immigration status and in the event that they do, you have the right to not answer this question).
6. Notify your company of the incident and your location. Ask the company to preserve all communications and passenger details. If you are able to, save passenger information onto your phone (take screenshots).
7. Notify the Sikh Coalition by calling 212-655-3095 or visiting www.sikhcoalition.org/legalhelp

Always

- Know your local rules and regulations, and your company's emergency procedures.
- Have convex mirrors installed.
- If regulations permit, install a camera and display a "You are being recorded" sticker in the passenger's eye view.
- Check that your vehicle, cell phone, and emergency buttons work before every shift.
- Carry a spare vehicle key on you at all times.
- Do a safety check of the inside and outside of the vehicle before starting your shift to make sure nothing is damaged or left behind.

***Your safety and security
are a priority for you,
your family, and us.***

**Need additional support?
Contact your company, driver's
union, or the Sikh Coalition.**

The Sikh Coalition is available as a free legal resource to advise you of your rights, navigate the criminal justice system, raise awareness about Sikhs in the media, and push for hate crime investigations/prosecutions where appropriate. If possible, please contact the Sikh Coalition before speaking to the media. Releasing certain information publicly could be harmful to a criminal case.