

Make-A-Wish®

ILLINOIS

WISH GRANTING VOLUNTEER SAFETY

Make-A-Wish® Illinois is committed to the safety of its wish granting volunteers. In no circumstance do we want wish granting volunteers to enter into a situation in which they feel unsafe.

Tips to Consider:

1. Always use the same common sense that you apply in your daily life.
2. If you sense danger or feel uncomfortable in a situation, remove yourself from the situation.
3. Always work in a pair with your wish partner.
4. If you are unfamiliar with an area, community, or neighborhood – check it out first by contacting the local police department.
5. If you and your wish partner are concerned with the location of your wish family please feel comfortable choosing a neutral meeting place. As a good practice we would suggest meeting near the child's treatment facility, but other suggestions could include:
 - ✓ **A comfortable, child-oriented restaurant** (i.e. McDonald's, Panera, Burger King, Dairy Queen, Cold Stone).
 - ✓ **Make-A-Wish Offices** (Chicago, Springfield, or Peoria)
 - ✓ **A Children's Museum** – We can arrange a meeting space and free admission passes with enough notice. Please contact your Wish Manager for details.
 - ✓ **Library** – If you give them the heads up you are coming they will likely arrange a private space for you and the family.
6. Remember, you want the child's attention so that you can work to uncover his/her favorite wish. Therefore, minimal noise and limited activity distractions are recommended. Also, we suggest that only immediate family participate.
7. Be sure to be considerate and respectful to the family when you set up an alternative location for meetings. Never insult them by indicating that you do not want to go to their home.
8. Communication is key so should you have any questions or concerns regarding safety contact your Wish Coordinator or your Wish Manager immediately.