



## FSA – Keeping You Safe

### **How to Stay Safe During Clown Season: Creepy Clown Sightings No Laughing Matter as Halloween Nears**

From South Carolina to Australia, a scourge of creepy clown sightings has put parents nationwide on high alert with Halloween fast approaching. What may have started out as childish humor has grown into a serious, dangerous practice which has resulted in multiple arrests across the country and added strain on law enforcement resources. The trend has shown no signs of slowing down; online retailer HalloweenExpress.com has seen a three-fold rise in clown masks this year.

The Florida Sheriffs Association encourages all members and the public to be active and on the lookout for signs of suspicious behavior this Halloween season. Those hoping to join the widespread craze should be reminded that Florida statute § 876.12 prohibits persons over the age of 16 from roaming in public with a mask, hood, or other obstruction concealing their profile.

Although the chances of being assaulted are extremely low, copycats have been seemingly encouraged by the international attention on mainstream and social media. Do not needlessly endanger your life or the lives of others this Halloween. If you do decide to celebrate the holidays by dressing up as a clown, be wary of the problem faced by law enforcement this October. As always, report suspicious behavior to local law enforcement and avoid confrontations.

For more information on the creepy clown trend, visit the [Reuters report](#).

*For more tips, please visit the [Florida Sheriffs Association's Crime Prevention Tips](#)*