How Can I Protect My Cell Phone from Loss or Theft

Answer

Since there is no guarantee that loss or theft will not happen, protection in this case means: 1) taking precautions in hopes that your phone can find its way back to you, or 2) making it too difficult for the thieves to make use of the phone. Here are several proactive measures you can take:

1. Keep details in a safe place: Your phone number, the make and model, color and appearance details, PIN or security lock code, and the serial or IMEI number (IMEI numbers are only found on GSM phones).
2. Put an alternate phone number or email on the body of the phone in case it's lost and found.
3. Use the security lock code or PIN feature to lock your phone. Don't lose this code or share it with anyone.
4. Add a small cable or clip to your phone to attach it to your wrist, belt or bag. When in public, keep the phone as hidden as possible. Put the phone away after using it, rather than leaving it next to you on a table or seat.
5. Locating and disabling stolen phones is sometimes possible with software available from third-party vendors or from the cellular service provider. It's a good idea to ask. These services may not work on all phones.
6. Cell phone insurance: Compare the cost of coverage to the cost of replacing the stolen or lost phone. Ask what will occur in case of loss or theft under the insurance agreement. If your cellular service provider will help replace the phone at little to no cost, the insurance will be unnecessary. (Your business phone might be covered by MIT's insurance. Check with the Insurance Office (617.253.2823) for more information.)