Autism and Special Needs

The State of Texas will now authorize an alert for citizens with special needs who are missing.

The Endangered Missing Persons Alert bridges the gap between Amber Alerts (which are issued in the event of a child abduction) and Silver Alerts (which are issued for persons over the age of 65 who are diagnosed with a mental impairment).

If your loved one does not fit the criteria for a Silver Alert or Amber Alert, but has an increased risk of wandering away from home due to Autism or other intellectual disability, you may submit their information for inclusion in the Shepherd Program.

Information provided in the Shepherd Program application will be used to quickly issue an Endangered Missing Persons Alert in the event he or she wanders away from home.

Drowning and exposure, along with other factors, are among the leading causes of death for those with Autism.

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The

Shepherd Program

Sponsored By The

Deer Park Police Department

Safeguard Your Loved One

As the guardian for a loved one diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Autism or other intellectual disability, you already face many challenges. If one of those challenges involves your loved one wandering away from home the Deer Park Police Department would like to be prepared to locate that person as soon as possible.

Six out of 10 Alzheimer's patients will wander.

Research has shown that your loved one may be likely to wander.

The Shepherd Program is designed to collect information in advance of a wandering incident that is both critical in locating a missing person and required by the state to launch an Alert.

Collected information is treated as confidential unless needed to locate a missing person.

About Alerts

The Silver Alert and Endangered Missing Persons Alert work like an Amber Alert. In order for either alert to be issued for a missing person the following requirements must be met:

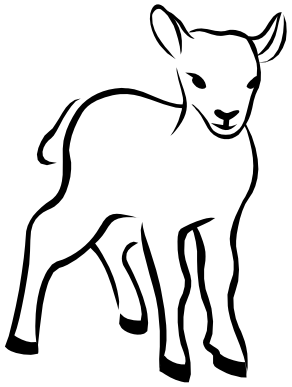
- The missing person must reside in the state of Texas
- The missing person must have a diagnosed mental impairment and medical documentation of intellectual disability must be available.
- The person must have gone missing within the last 72 hours
- Sufficient information must be available for the public and law enforcement to locate the missing person.

Medical documents, current pictures, vehicle registration and other information can be difficult or impossible to locate, especially after hours.

By participating in the Shepherd Program you ensure required information is already accessible by law enforcement and that your loved one will be eligible for a Silver Alert or Endangered Missing Persons Alert.

How To Participate

Participation is voluntary and free of charge. The Deer Park Police Department only requires that you completely fill out an application for the loved one you wish to register.

As there are specific requirements for issuing a Silver or Endangered Missing Persons Alert, the police department wants to be completely prepared to return your loved one safely home. This means you may have to take the application with you and return it to the police department when all required information has been provided.

Applications are available online at www.deerparktx.gov/police and at the Deer Park Police Department 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.