



Special Needs Services for Monmouth County Residents

Presented by Wall Township Police Special Needs Liaisons:
Communications Officer LeighAnne Woolley and Patrolman Karleigh Cacciatore



Monmouth County residents have access to:

- Monmouth County Special Needs Registry
- Project Lifesaver
- Blue Envelope Program
- Register Ready
- Additional Available Resources

Monmouth County Special Needs Registry

- www.mcsnrnj.org
- Began in 2016.
- A voluntary services open to all citizens who reside, attend school or are employed in Monmouth County.
- The registry was created to help police officers and first responders better assist residents with special needs in the event of an emergency by providing them with vital information on a registrant's disability, emergency contact, physical description and current photograph.





Monmouth County Special Needs Registry

Maintained by the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office and Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office.

- Information provided will only be shared with first responders during an emergency.
- The registry is open to any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Example: Alzheimers/Dementia, Anxiety, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Diabetes, Dialysis, Down Syndrome, Epilepsy, Hard of Hearing/Deaf, I/DD, Life Alert, Mobility Impairment, Oxygen Dependent, Service Animal, Sight Impairment.
- Mandatory information required to register: name, address, emergency contact info, nature of disability, current photo
- Non-mandatory information: prescribed medication, doctor info, blood type, triggers, calming methods, frequent locations.

Monmouth County Special Needs Registry

- Each registrant will be provided with two different size window decals that can be placed on the front entrance of the residence as well as the rear window of any vehicle in which they regularly travel.
- The presence of the MCSNR decal signifies to first responders that someone in the residence/vehicle has some degree of special need and that they should respond accordingly.
- * The use of the decal is voluntary.





Project Lifesaver

- <https://www.mcsonj.org/community-outreach/project-lifesaver/>
- “Bringing Loved Ones Home”
- A program designed to protect, and when necessary, quickly locate individuals with cognitive disorders who are prone to the life threatening behavior of wandering.
- Founded in 1999 in Chesapeake, VA. The necessity of this program was determined through the correlation between cognitive conditions and the act of wandering.
- Search times have been reduced from hours/days to minutes. Average time is under 30 minutes.



Project Lifesaver

- An RF transmitter bracelet worn by the individual who is prone to wander, sends a signal from the transmitter to an antenna in a hand held device, one placed on a vehicle or even in a helicopter for large scale searches.
- Advantages of RF technology: accuracy of the signal, strength of the signal.
- What do I do in the event of an emergency?



Project Lifesaver

- To enroll in Project Lifesaver you must have a diagnosis from a doctor and a history of wandering.
- There is no cost to the individual.
- Batteries will be changed by the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office about every two months they will come to you.
- For those 60 years of age and older, contact Office of the Aging: 732-308-3770 x8780
- For all others, contact the Monmouth County Sheriff's Department: 732-431-6400 x 1129.





Blue Envelope Program

- The purpose of the Blue Envelope is to improve the interaction between a driver with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and a Police Officer on a traffic stop.
- The Blue Envelope provides written information and guidance on enhancing effective communication between police officers and people with ASD.
- The primary goal of the Blue Envelope is to assist drivers with ASD with document organization and to help them understand what to do on a motor vehicle stop.
 - The envelope is a place for the driver to keep a copy of their license, registration, and insurance card, along with a document that explains their medical diagnosis and provides the contact information of another person who can verify that detail.



Blue Envelope Program

- Secondly, the Blue Envelope provides Police Officers with the means to quickly identify an operator of a motor vehicle who has ASD and helps guide Police Officers with the interaction.
 - The police officer's section of the envelope explains some behaviors the driver might exhibit, including repetitive body movements and signs of high anxiety.
 - Police are also instructed to allow the driver extra time to respond, to use the most simplistic language possible and to clearly tell the driver when he or she can leave the scene.

DRIVER IS ON THE AUTISTIC SPECTRUM

DRIVER IS VERBAL ____

DRIVER IS NONVERBAL ____

"BLUE ENVELOPE" IMPORTANT VEHICLE PAPERS!

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- Keep your hands on the steering wheel until otherwise directed, even if the officer is not at your car.
- The officer may shine a flashlight in your car, may have a radio, and may have flashing lights on their car.
- When the officer gets to your car let them know you have a blue envelope, answer the officer's questions, and ask the officer before moving any parts of your body.



POLICE OFFICER SPECTRUM AWARENESS GUIDE ON BACK FLAP OF ENVELOPE

POLICE OFFICER:

- Driver may exhibit signs of anxiety due to bright lights and noises like your radio.
- Driver may display repetitive body movements or fidgeting and may have unusual eye contact.
- Speak clearly and use the most simplistic explanations possible, limit unnecessary details.
- Allow driver extra time to respond, driver may need more time to formulate a response.
- Clearly tell the driver when the stop is over and they can leave.
- If the driver becomes upset consider contacting the person listed on the contact card.

IMPORTANT VEHICLE PAPERS!

Contents:

- Driver's License
- Vehicle Registration
- Current Insurance Card
- Emergency Contact

Register Ready

- The Register Ready initiative is a voluntary and free program designed to assist first responders and emergency planners in identifying those residents that may need assistance in evacuating in advance of an emergency and so that emergency management may develop the necessary plans to support those needs.
- Information given will allow emergency responders to help locate and evacuate people with Access and Functional Needs during an emergency, when family or a caregiver are unable to help them.
- You should register if you may find it difficult to get to safety with family or friends or to a public shelter during an emergency evacuation, because of a physical or cognitive limitation, language barrier, or lack of transportation.

Remember, your priority should be to relocate with a family member or friend first!





All age resources:

- Monmouth County Special Needs Registry
 - www.mcsnrnj.org
- Project Lifesaver
 - <https://www.mcsonj.org/community-outreach/project-lifesaver/>
 - 1600 agencies / all 50 states + 7 Canadian Provinces
- POAC - Brick
 - 732-785-1099
 - poac.net
 - Events for the autism community; training for parents and educators; recreational and support services to individuals with ASD and their families
- Division of Disabilities
 - 888-285-3036
 - <https://monmouthadvocates.com/disability-office/>
- Autism New Jersey
 - 800-4-Autism (Helpline 8:30-5:00 Monday-Friday)
 - <https://autismnj.org/> info about treatment and services offered in NJ
- Crisis Response System (CARES- Crisis Assessment Response and Enhances Services)
 - 888-393-3007 (24/7) Direct consultation in family homes for those with developmental disabilities, mental health or behavioral crisis.
 - <https://www.rwjbh.org/trinitas-regional-medical-center/treatment-care/mental-health-and-behavioral-health/trinitas-cares-program/>



Adult resources

- Achieve Academy - Brookdale at Wall
 - <https://www.achieveacademynj.org/>
 - 21+ with Autism; developing essential life skills: Achieve Cafe; Life Skills Apartment; Leisure, Interest & Hobby Room; Fitness Center; Sensory Room
- New Horizons at Wall
 - <https://www.nhautism.org/about>
 - 21 + Residential program, day program, in-home support, behavior therapy, supported employment
- Arc of Monmouth - Wall
 - 732-493-1919 x 122
 - Adult Services for individuals with I/DD - day program, employment opportunities, educational programs, residential services, respite care



Questions?

Communications Officer LeighAnne Woolley

LWoolley@wallpolice.org

Patrolman Karleigh Cacciatore

KCacciatore@wallpolice.org