



THE COMPLETE IDENTIFICATION SOLUTION



**MISSING &
EXPLOITED**

C H I L D R E N[®]

www.missingkids.com

Safety Guidebook

- Safety Tips for Parents/Guardians and Children*
- Teach Your Child When and How To Call 911
- DNA Collection Guide*
- Autism Safety Suggestions
- Dementia/Alzheimer's Guardian Safety Tips
- What To Do When A Person Is Missing*

* Written in conjunction with the **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.**

The SafeAssured Identification Solution is an all-in-one kit designed to help locate a missing person quickly. Fast, comprehensive and secure, it is a useful collection of information and tools.

The SafeAssured ID Kit includes: a durable, detailed photo ID card, a Mini-CD, and this Safety Guidebook

Keep this Safety Guidebook and the Mini-CD in a safe place where you can access them quickly in an emergency. They may be carried in a purse or stored in the glove box of your car. Keep the photo ID card in your purse or wallet, ready for immediate use.

Over time, appearances change. Consider updating your SafeAssured ID kit annually.

NOTE: Only the parent/guardian has the information gathered for the SafeAssured ID Kit. NO information is stored by SafeAssured. Paper documentation is shredded and electronic data destroyed upon enrollment completion.

SafeAssured ID kits provide useful, timesaving tools in qualified and unqualified Amber Alert and Silver Alert cases.

Child Safety Tips for Parents/Guardians:

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- Know where your children are at all times. Be familiar with their friends and daily activities.
- Be sensitive to changes in your children's behavior; they are a signal you should sit down and talk to your children about what caused the changes.
- Be alert to a teenager or adult who is paying an unusual amount of attention to your children or giving them inappropriate or expensive gifts.
- Teach your children to trust their own feelings, and assure them they have the right to say no to what they sense is wrong.
- Teach your children that no one should approach or touch them in a way that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. If someone does, they should immediately tell you.
- Be diligent about babysitters and any other individuals who have custody of your children. Obtain recommendations and references from trusted adults. Many states provide access to sex-offender registries and criminal histories.

Safety Tips for Children: www.missingkids.com

- If you are in a public place, and you get separated from your parents or guardians, don't wander around looking for them. Go to a uniformed law-enforcement or security officer, store salesperson or person in the information booth with a nametag. Quickly tell the person you have lost your family and need help finding them.
- You should not get into a vehicle or go anywhere with any person unless your parents or guardians have told you it is okay to do so on that day.
- If someone follows you in a vehicle, stay away from him or her and turn around and go in the opposite direction. You should not get close to any vehicle, unless your parent, guardian, or a trusted adult accompanies you. If someone is following you on foot, run away as fast as you can and tell a trusted adult what happened.
- You should try to take a friend with you, and never go places alone.
- Always ask your parents' or guardians' permission to leave the yard or play area or go into someone's home.

- If someone tries to take you somewhere, quickly get away from him (or her) and yell or scream, “This man (woman) is trying to take me away” or “This person is not my father (mother).” If someone tries to grab you, make a scene and make every effort to get away by kicking, screaming, and resisting.
- Grownups and others who need help should not be asking children for help, they should be asking older people. No one should be asking you for directions, asking you to help look for something like a “lost puppy,” or telling you your mother or father is in trouble and he or she will take you to them.
- If someone wants to take your picture, tell him or her no and tell your parents, guardians, or other trusted adults.
- No one should touch you in the parts of the body that would be covered by a bathing suit, nor should you touch anyone else in those areas. Your body is special and private.
- You can be assertive, and you have the right to say no to someone who tries to take you somewhere; touch you; or make you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused in any way.

Teach Your Child When and How To Call 911

Teach your child when and how to call 911 in an emergency. Make sure your child knows dialing 911 is only for emergencies. Provide examples of what is and what is not an emergency. Practice calling. Prepare them for questions emergency operators will ask, such as:

- The child's full name
- Parent's/Guardian's names
- Home phone number
- Home address, city and state
- Location of emergency, if different from home
- What happened/is happening
- Telephone number calling from, if different from home
- Who and how many people are involved
- Condition of any victims
- What help is currently being provided

Post a list of information your child may need by the phone.

Prepare alternative emergency numbers when 911 is not available.

DNA Collection Guide www.missingkids.com

DNA matching is a powerful law enforcement tool that helps investigators examine crime scene evidence and identify missing people. By collecting and storing DNA, you will be prepared in the event of abduction or other emergency. Collect everyone's DNA as a family activity.

For example, your child's used toothbrush is rich with their DNA. Allow the toothbrush to air dry and place it in a brown envelope, have your child lick the envelope shut, and label it. The same procedure may be used for other samples such as baby teeth, an old hairbrush used exclusively by your child for at least one month, and dried blood from a bandage. When collecting saliva, take two samples from each person. Cut off one end of a cotton swab being careful not to touch the cotton tip. Place the cotton end against the inside of your child's cheek and roll it up and down. Stick the other end into the base of an upside down foam cup and allow to dry. Clearly label and date all samples.

Store DNA samples in separate brown envelopes. Store at room temperature in a dry place away from heat. The DNA samples should be good for up to six or seven years.

Autism Safety Suggestions:

A leading cause for concern are children and adults with autism who run away or wander from parents or care providers. To ensure safety and lower risk for an individual with autism, parents and caregivers need to become proactive and prepared.

- Contact law enforcement, fire and ambulance agencies to let them know an autistic person lives at your address. Ask local 911 call centers to “Red Flag” this information in their computer system and relay it to first responders.
- In residential areas, have a CAUTION road sign placed by the Department of Public Works (DPW) near your home.
- Install window and door chimes so you know when exterior doors or windows are being opened.
- Install childproof door knobs or locks above your child’s reach.
- Fence your yard
- Have a list of names and phone numbers of people the autistic individual would most likely respond to. Distribute it to all care-givers so an immediate and effective search team can be formed.

- Individuals with autism are often attracted to water sources such as pools, ponds and lakes. Drowning is a leading cause of death for an individual with autism. Know where all the bodies of water are in your neighborhood. Teach them how to swim unassisted and with clothes on. Swim lessons are often available for individuals with special needs.
- Ask neighbors, friends and family to contact you if they see the autistic child or adult outside the house alone.
- Get to know your neighbors and decide what information is appropriate to give them. Let them know you are approachable and make it easy for them to contact you if needed.
 - * Does the autistic child or adult respond to their name or would someone think they are deaf?
 - * What are the best approach and de-escalation techniques?
 - * Are there sensory issues which might place them in harm's way?
 - * Does the individual have a fear of animals or are they drawn to them?

Dementia/Alzheimer's Guardian Safety Tips:

It is common for a person with dementia to wander and become lost; many do repeatedly. In fact, over 60% of those with dementia will wander at some point. People with dementia who wander often have a purpose or goal in mind. They may be searching for something that is lost or trying to fulfill a former job responsibility.

- Identify the most likely times of day that wandering may occur, and plan activities at that time. Activities such as folding laundry, preparing dinner, listening to music or dancing may provide the opportunity.
- Place locks on doors out of the line of sight. Install locks at the top or bottom of the doors. Cover door knobs with cloth the same color as the door or use childproof knobs. Camouflage doors by painting them the same color as the walls, or cover them with removable curtains/screens.
- Install door chimes so you know when exterior doors are being opened. Place a mirror on the door as the reflection of a person's own face will often stop him or her from exiting the door.

- Ask neighbors, friends and family to call if they see the person outside alone or dressed inappropriately.
- When the individual says that he or she wants to leave or go to work, use communication focused on exploration and validation (not correcting).
- Go with your loved one if he or she insists on leaving the house.
- If wandering is in progress, use distraction to redirect the individual's focus.
- Know your neighborhood. Pinpoint dangerous areas near the home such as bodies of water, open stairwells, dense foliage, tunnels, bus stops and roads with heavy traffic.
- Is the individual right or left-handed? Wandering generally follows the direction of the dominant hand.
- Keep a list of places where the person may wander to, like past jobs, former homes or a church or restaurant.
- Be aware that a person might not only wander by foot, but also by car or other modes of transportation.

What To Do When A Person Is Missing:

It is important that you act immediately. There is no mandatory waiting period to report a missing person to law enforcement.

- Search your home thoroughly and check with relatives, neighbors, and friends to try and locate them.
- File a missing person report with your local law enforcement.
- Limit access to your home until law enforcement officers arrive and are able to collect evidence.
- Give law enforcement the SafeAssured ID kit that has all their personal information on it.
- Ask that the missing person's name and identifying information be immediately entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Missing Person File.
- If your child is still missing, call the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) at 1.800.THE.LOST (1.800.843.5678) to find out what resources are available to you.

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