

Wandering Prevention Strategies & Project Lifesaver

Wandering away from home, school or in the community can be dangerous for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Project Lifesaver is one resource to help locate individuals who have wandered and may become lost. The best outcome is to prevent unsafe wandering whenever possible. CARD-USF has compiled some resources to assist your family to reduce unsafe wandering for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. CARD-USF is also available to provide consultation to help you support your loved one at home, school or in the community.

Autism and Safety in the Home (Autism Society of America)

<http://www.autism-society.org>

Elopement (Running Away) - Butterfly Effects

<http://www.butterflyeffects.com>

Behavior Intervention Plan suggestions for elopement..... (from the Autism and PDD Support Network message board)

<http://www.autism-pdd.net>

AUTISM SAFETY TOOLKIT: Keeping Our Children Safe (National Autism Association)

<http://www.nationalautismassociation.org/>

Preparing for an Autism Emergency - (Dennis Debbaudt)

<http://www.autismriskmanagement.com>

Elopement, or Wandering, In People With Autism

<http://www.blisstree.com>

Protecting the Child or Adult with Autism (South Carolina Autism Society)

<http://www.scautism.org>

10 Ways to Prevent Wandering (WebMD - not about autism specifically)

<http://www.webmd.com/brain/brain-disorders-injuries-9/prevent-wandering>

Book recommendation:

***Autism, Advocates, and Law Enforcement Professionals
Recognizing and Reducing Risk Situations for People with Autism Spectrum Disorders***

Dennis Debbaudt

Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2001

Available on Amazon.com

From the Project Lifesaver International website:

“Project Lifesaver relies on proven radio technology and a specially trained search and rescue team. Clients that are enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify the local Project Lifesaver agency that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanders area and starts searching with the mobile locator tracking system. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. In over 1,500 searches, there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths. Recovery times average less than 30 minutes.”

www.projectlifesaver.org

If you would like to enroll in Project Lifesaver, need more information, or would like to volunteer or provide financial support for Project Lifesaver in your community, please contact the organization serving your area. Check with your local organization for enrollment fees.

1)**Pinellas County Sheriff's Office** - Contact Person Sgt. Berrentine Phone # 727-582-6992
10750 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33778
E-Mail: lnalven@pcsonet.com

2)**Collier County Sheriff's Office** - Contact Person Angela Larson Phone # 239-793-9468
3301 Tamiami Trail East Bldg J
Naples, FL 34112-4902 Fax # 239-430-1730
E-Mail: seniors@colliersheriff.net

3)**Hendry County Sheriff's Office** Phone # 863-674-4060
101 South Bridge Road
P.O. Box 579
LaBelle, FL 33975 Fax # 863-674-4624

4)**Lee County Sheriff's Office** - Contact Person Jamie Bartc Phone # 239-477-1000
14750 Six Mile Cypress Parkway Alt Phone # 239-477-1274
Fort Meyers, FL 33912-4406
E-Mail: jbartc@sheriffleefl.org

5)**Pasco County Sheriff's Office**-Contact Eddie Eckert Phone #:727-847-5878
8700 Citizen Dr X1283
New Port Richey, FL 34654 Fax #:727-847-7742
eeckert@pascosheriff.org

6)**Sarasota Police Department** - Contact Person Ford Snodgrass Phone # 941 954-7056
2050 Ringling Blvd. Fax # 941 954-7034
Sarasota, FL 34230
E-Mail: joseph.snodgrass@sarasotagov.com

**7) Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and City of Tampa
Police Department ****

To enroll call LoJack at 1-877-4-FIND-THEM
(1-877-434-6384). For additional information you may also call 211.

<https://www.lojacksafetynet.com/Enroll/Membership/home.aspx>

To enroll online

** CARD-USF is pleased to collaborate with, and partially fund, the start up of Project Lifesaver in Hillsborough County.