

**toolkit:**  
for  
PARENTS OF CHILDREN  
with  
AUTISM SPECTRUM  
DISORDERS

Courtesy AWAARE: Autism Wandering Awareness Alerts  
Response Education ([awaare.org](http://awaare.org))

## Family Wandering Emergency Plan

Make sure your family has a plan in case of a wandering emergency.

Before an emergency happens, sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go, and what you will do in an emergency.

*Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supply kit  
or another safe place where you can access it in the event your child is missing.*

### EMERGENCY STEPS

- Always call 911 immediately if your loved one is missing from your home.**
- Clearly state your child's name.
- State that he or she has a cognitive impairment, provide the diagnosis, and state that he or she is endangered and has no sense of danger.
- Provide your child's radio frequency tracking number (if applicable).
- Provide your child's date of birth, height, weight, and any other unique identifiers such as eyeglasses or braces.
- State when you noticed that your child was missing and what clothing he or she was wearing.
- Request an AMBER alert be issued (if your child is a minor) or a Silver Alert (if your child is an adult).
- Request that your child's name and identifying information be immediately entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Missing Person File.
- Search known areas your child would likely be, or be attracted to. If you have an emergency point person assigned to contact neighbors, pick up your other children from school, watch your children, etc., alert that person while searching for known areas your child would likely be. *If you have other small children, never leave them unattended.*

**Tip #1:** Create an emergency point person who can contact neighbors, fax your alert form to local law enforcement, and assist in making arrangements for your other children.

**Tip #2:** List the main places your child may likely go within the neighborhood, as well as the most dangerous areas nearby.

**Tip #3:** Before an emergency happens, assign at least five willing "search angels" who will commit to searching for your child in the event of an emergency.



## critical information

CHILD'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S TRANSMITTER TRACKING NUMBER (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S OFFICIAL DIAGNOSIS \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S IDENTIFYING MARKS, MEDICATIONS & MEDICAL NEEDS \_\_\_\_\_

## emergency point person

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

*Your emergency point person can contact neighbors, fax your alert form to local law enforcement, and assist in making arrangements for your other children. Should your child go missing, make sure this contact has a cell phone and knows what your child is wearing, any identifying features, where your child was last seen, how long your child may have been gone, any medical needs or allergies your child may have, your child's likes and dislikes. Ideally, the emergency contact will be a relative or close friend. Provide your emergency contact with a copy of this plan and ask them to keep it in a safe, accessible place.*

## areas to search first

*List the main places your child may likely go within the neighborhood, as well as the most dangerous areas nearby, such as ponds, lakes, pools, etc.*

LOCATION NAME	LOCATION DESCRIPTION
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

**Search these areas first.** *If you have assigned "search angels" ahead of time, make sure they know which location is assigned to them. Draw maps of these locations, or physically show the volunteers the location to which they are assigned **before** an emergency happens.*

## assigned "search angels"

*Make sure your five "search angels," who are committed to searching for your child in the event of an emergency, would be immediately available (are typically home), are willing, and know and understand which search location is assigned to them.*

NAME	NUMBER	ADDRESS	ASSIGNED LOCATION
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____

## other numbers

**LAW ENFORCEMENT FAX NUMBERS:** *(If local law enforcement does not have your child's information on file, your point person should fax it.)*

**National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC): 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)**

**LOCAL MEDIA CONTACT NUMBERS:**

**OTHER NOTES:** *(Make any notes you feel may be important in case of a wandering emergency.)* \_\_\_\_\_

Keep this document with you at all times. Keep a copy in a safe, accessible place within the home. Keep this with your child's first responder alert form, documentation of diagnosis, medical papers, and any other important information.

