

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE

*What to do if your child wanders &
BE SAFE for families & law enforcement*



SILVER ALERT

The Silver Alert System will now include children and adults with developmental disabilities.

- A Silver Alert is a public notification system to broadcast information about missing persons in order to aid in their being found.
- Effective August 2018, the Silver Alert System in Arizona will include individuals with autism or other developmental disabilities.
- Silver Alerts use a wide array of media outlets, roadway signs, and Reverse 911 to broadcast information about missing persons.

Thank you to the ARC for initiating this legislation. Please join the Autism Society of Greater Phoenix, the Arizona Autism Coalition, the ARC and many other local organizations in helping spread the word about the changes to the Silver Alert System. To help assist in the Silver Alert efforts, please encourage family members and friends to register with the CENS program listed on reverse.

BE SAFE

Save a life: teach students how to interact with police.

BE SAFE uses video modeling to show how to interact with the police in everyday encounters. Positive models help people of all abilities learn what to do and say when meeting the police. Crucial safety skills are clearly demonstrated, ranging from following instructions, to the right to remain silent. Real police officers interact with special needs individuals and caregivers, giving **BE SAFE** true authenticity. **BE SAFE** is great for teens and adults with disabilities and **EVERYONE** else for that matter! Help prevent problems and improve outcomes in police encounters.

Check our website to attend an upcoming Be Safe Interactive Screening: phxautism.org

You can purchase the BE SAFE movie for use at home: besafethemovie.com



PREPARE

Contact your local police department. Share information:

- Where your child might go
- If he is verbal / non-verbal
- If she is violent
- If he is afraid of the police

Schedule a visit

- Make an appointment to visit your local police station, or for your local officers to visit your home.

Put medical info on your fridge

- Police & fire are trained to check your refrigerator when responding to a call
- Include diagnoses & medications



PREPARE

Get a medical alert bracelet

- Bracelets are available free of charge from two places:

Phoenix PD: medicalert.org/autism

Mesa PD: mesaaz.gov/residents/police/departments-divisions/crisis-intervention-team

- Teach your child to point to her medical alert bracelet if she needs to deal with the police

Create safety goals

- Include home, school & community
- Goals might include:

- Learn how to call / text 911 (Home)
- Successfully participate in a lock down drill / fire drill (School)
- Learn how to keep hands out of pockets in case of a police encounter. (Community)

- Children can use therapies, including ABA, to meet their safety goals

Register your cell phone with the Community Emergency Notification System (CENS)

- Go to 911alertsyou.com or maricoparegion911.org
- This system is a “reverse 911” that will alert you in the event of a local emergency

CALLING 911

If your child with autism is missing, call 911 immediately

- Do not wait, and do not be embarrassed

If your child becomes violent, ask for the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) to respond

- Give as much information as possible
- Include diagnoses, medications, and if your child is verbal / non-verbal

If your child is in Behavioral Health, make sure you have a Crisis Plan in writing, and follow it

- Calling 911 is not a sufficient Crisis Plan

