Being Safe in the Community: How to Prepare for Independence & Community Participation

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Introductions

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Know More. Grow More. Together

Member
Organizations
Collaboration of public and private sector

Partners
Linking local, state, and national resources

Task Force Facilitation
Across the region
Across the spectrum
Across the lifespan

Training
Identifying gaps
Building capacity
Adaptable to audience
Objectives

Connect 1
Recognize the importance of being engaged with first responders/law enforcement, direct support staff and school personnel in proactive safety planning so that youth and adults with IDD can successfully navigate their communities.

Engage 2
Learn ideas on how to engage local first responders/law enforcement to ensure safety in crisis situations.

Plan 3
Gain proactive strategies to support individuals with disabilities to stay safe in the community.
Identifying Yourself

Ohio House Bill 115
- Ohio Communication Disability Law
- Voluntary system
- Verification

Smart 911
- National Program purchased by department
- Voluntary system
  - [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com)

Self-Disclosure Cards
How It Works

Sign Up for Smart911 and create a secure safety profile for your household.

If you ever call 9-1-1, the call taker can see the emergency information you want them to see.

Security and Privacy

You Decide What to Include
Provide as much or as little information as you want. Smart911 only asks for information that is relevant to aid an emergency response.

Only Seen If You Call 9-1-1
Your information is only available to 9-1-1 call takers and first responders if you have an emergency.

Industry Leading Security
Your information is housed in top-tier secure facilities complete with 24/7 physical security, video surveillance, and alarms. We utilize the same SSL certificate authority and encryption technologies used by leading financial institutions.

Keep Your Loved Ones Safe.

Smart911 is the only way to provide lifesaving information directly to 9-1-1 and first responders in an emergency.

As Seen On...

Smart911.com
Because every second counts. Sign up today.
Key Points for Smart 911

- One account covers the entire household.
- Provides critical information to 911 dispatch and First Responders.
- Smart911 is a national service.
- Your Safety Profile travels with you and is visible to any participating 911 call center nationwide.
- When you call 911, your Safety Profile displays on the 911 screen.
- 911 call takers have access to all the information in your Safety Profile like, address, home information, medical information and medical conditions, descriptions of pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts.
- You can provide as much or as little information as you wish.
- Your information is only available to 911 call takers if you call 911.
- Smart911 has the same Secure Sockets Layers (SSL) Certificate authority and encryption technologies used by leading financial institutions so your information is secure.
- Endorsed by thousands of public safety agencies nationwide along with Autism Speaks Chicagoland Chapter.
- Smart911 will not sell your email address or spam you. You and only you are responsible for keeping your account up to date.
- Best of all, Smart911 is a FREE service. Services are paid for by public agencies ensuring free and equal access to all citizens of the community at no cost to them.
- Go to Smart911.com Today and create your Safety Profile.
Key Points for Text 911

- First check with your local Public safety Services to see if “TEXT 911” is available in your area.
- If you have an emergency, remember, an actual voice call is always preferred. But you may not be able to make an actual phone call or it may not be safe to make a phone call.
- Start by composing your message. Keep it brief and to the point. Also avoid using slang, as this puts you at risk of having your message misunderstood.
- Include which service is needed, where you need the service, and why.
- Once you’ve composed your message, type 911, in the address line and send.
- Keep your phone handy and be ready to respond to requests for additional information.
- You CANNOT send photos, video or other media to 911 via text. Only letters and numbers in your message.
- You must have a “Wireless Data Plan”.
Important to TEACH a person how to self-disclose a disability!
Resources: Community and First Responders

- Window Clings
- Temporary Tattoos
- Help Belts
- ID Cards
- GPS
- Medical IDs
- Alarms
Links for safety resources:

Training = Learning

"Teaching is useless unless you can learn from your students."

- **Listened to the Need**
  - Expertise is relative

- **Learned a few lessons**
  - Identified myths and misunderstandings

Martin Dansky
Be Proactive
To Do List

1. First responders want to know what to do and who you are
2. Know what to expect when you call 911
3. Have information ready before you are in an emergency
4. Systemic Limitations and expectations

The Introduction

1. Find out the best way to meet
   - Phone call
   - (Virtual) Tour
   - House Call

2. Ask About First Responders
   - Learn about the role
   - Learn about the tools

3. Introduce Yourself
   - Interests
   - Communication
   - Favorite Places

4. Repeat
   - Find additional opportunities for exposure
Attend the Events

NSNF Autism & Special Needs Halloween Party needs donations of candy, food, drinks or helpers. Please drop off donations to Amanda at her house (2025 Dale Rd) or Hailey at Williams (kindergarten hallway).

30+ candy stations including the Norwood Firefighters!

Safe, judgement-free, sensory friendly.

Costume contest & dance off.

Be Safe The Movie
"I never realized how critical SAFETY is for our kids AT EACH AGE & STAGE. As a mom, I guess I initially considered it like eating or breathing---intangible, something you don't teach. But now I'm all in---strategies, devices, resources, protocols---it all can be presented to families and MUST BE presented to families."

~Tammi, mother of a 19 year old with autism
Safety Committee

Gathering resources. Sharing resources. Identifying and filling gaps.

A hub of safety resources

Family members and Professionals
- Initial goal: Identify key safety resources
- Learning community
- Momentum

Carry it forward
- Identifying mission
- Adding team members
- Surveying the community

Enhance Safety
- Prioritizing community need
- Identifying resources
- Planning

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Call to Action for Self-Advocates regarding Abuse

Abuse of People with Disabilities: A Silent Epidemic

Writing, emailing, educating state legislators
Plan
“Thank you for helping me make a plan for the worst case scenarios I've had in my head.
~Parent of an adult with autism
Keep it simple.
Crime Prevention

Be Proactive

Personal Safety

ATM Safety

Home Security
Personal Safety

- Wherever you are, stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings.
- Send the message that you are calm and confident.
- Be realistic about your limitations. Avoid places or situations that put you at risk. Try to go out with a friend or in a group.
- Always carry medical information in case of an emergency. This should include your name, address, a contact person (close friend or relative), your doctors name and phone number, and any current medications. Remember this document will need to speak for you if you are unable to.
- If something or someone makes you feel uneasy, get away from that situation as quickly as possible. Try to get to an area where several other persons are present or a store associate if you are in or near a business establishment.
- Stick to well lit, well traveled streets and areas. Avoid wooded areas and alleyways.
- Carry your purse close to your body. Put a wallet in an inside pocket of a coat or your front pants pocket, not your back pocket.
- Have your car or house key in hand and ready before you get to the door.
- Avoid parking in isolated areas. Stay alert in parking lots and garages.
- While driving keep your doors locked.
- Do not pick up hitchhikers or strangers.
ATM Safety

- Try to avoid using an ATM after dark. Only use an ATM that is in a well lit area and that is visible to others.
- Have your card ready and be observant of the surroundings.
- Do not approach the machine if you are uneasy about other people that are standing around nearby.
- If you are on foot, stand close to the machine and use your hand to shield others from seeing your password or code.
- Take your transaction receipts with you. Do not discard them on the ground.
- If you withdraw cash put it away immediately. Do not stand there and count it.
- Never accept help from strangers at an ATM.
- Never tell your access code to others you do not trust.
- If you lose your ATM card, notify your bank immediately.
Home Safety

- Almost half of all residential burglaries are committed by thieves simply entering through unlocked doors or windows.
- Keep your doors and windows locked anytime you are away from home.
- Make sure entry doors have good locks. Deadbolts are best.
- The most secure doors have no glass windows in them. The next best would be doors with only small windows at the top.
- Instead of hiding keys on the outside of the house, give an extra key to someone you trust; a neighbor or family member.
- All outside entry doors should be of solid wood or metal.
- Having a peephole installed in all entry doors so you can see who is outside without opening the door is a good idea.
- Make sure all points of entry are well lit. Keep lights on all night. Thieves hate bright lights.
- Keep your yard cleaned up. Make sure shrubbery doesn’t hide doors or windows that would hide someone making entry to your house.
- Make sure your house number is clearly visible from the roadway so that emergency personnel who may respond can easily find your home.
- If you will be away from home for several days make sure to stop your mail and/or newspaper. Mail and newspapers piling up is a sure sign you are away. Also ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on things for you.
What Are Your Next Steps?

Safety is a universal language.

Goal 1

Goal 2

Goal 3
Thank You!

QUESTIONS?
What else are you wondering?