

## Keeping Students with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Safe ©

SJCSD ESE Parent Advisory Meeting  
St. Augustine, FL - January 7, 2020

### Safely Disclosing ID or DD to a Law Enforcement Officer

- It is essential for an individual with an ID or DD to safely disclose their disability to a law enforcement officer as soon as possible during the initial encounter.
- This can be extremely challenging for individuals who are non-verbal or who struggle with verbal communication.
- The Wallet Card™
  - The Wallet Card™ is an effective tool for aiding more independent persons with an ID or DD in safely disclosing their disability to a law enforcement officer.
  - The Wallet Card™ is free and can be personally customized to describe any behavior, communication, or sensory challenge. It also includes emergency contact information for a parent or guardian. To request a Wallet Card™ and view the training video, visit the website for the Disability Independence Group (DIG) at [justdigit.org/wallet-cards/](http://justdigit.org/wallet-cards/)
- Other Tools for Safely Disclosing ID or DD
  - “If I Need Help” and other QR code identification tools - IFiNeedHelp.Org
  - Temporary tattoos with emergency contact information
  - ID Card on belt loops and belt
  - Medic Alert bracelets, necklaces, and key chain
  - Jogger shoe tags and RoadID
  - Autism or Special Olympics logos on clothing, e.g., patches or pins
  - Special Needs Registry – Flagging the residence in the 911 data base
  - PRACTICE with your loved one how to safely disclose ID or autism!!!! To include social stories.

### Wandering and Elopement

- **Prevention Plan**
  - Includes hardening home and making it more difficult to wander/bolt
  - **Caution:** There is a trade-off between hardening against wandering and fire safety in the home.
  - Doors: locks that are hard to reach for younger children, number codes for deadbolt and latch key locks. Double-cylinder deadbolt (requires key on inside)
  - Windows: locked and secured.

- Alarms for doors and windows in case of opening (some battery-operated models)
- Perimeter fences and motion detectors for second line of defense.
- In-home camera systems
- Notifying neighbors and 911 Center (Registry or Flagged in 911 CAD System)
- **Family Plan for Wandering:** Have a plan in place for the entire family. Every member should rehearse the plan prior to an elopement event. The plan should include the following:
  - Call 911 immediately
  - If your loved one is attracted to water, have one or more adults immediately search nearby water sources
  - One adult must remain home or at the scene of elopement for responding law enforcement officers
  - Tell 911 that your loved one has autism or intellectual disability and any other medical conditions. State they are endangered and have no sense of danger
  - Provide your loved one's radio frequency tracking number if applicable
  - If your loved one is attracted to water, tell the dispatcher to have personnel search nearby water sources
  - Tell the dispatcher what time you last noticed your loved one and what they were last seen wearing
  - Be prepared to provide your loved one's name, age, date of birth, height, weight, race, sex, and any other fragile/medical conditions
  - If your loved one has a Scent Evidence Kit, inform the dispatcher and request that a Bloodhound be sent to the place he/she was last seen.
- **Vulnerable Person Elopement Alert Form**
  - This form should be duplicated in many forms (hard copy, flash drive, smartphone, stored in the Cloud, etc.)
  - The Elopement Alert Form must include the following information:
    - Name
    - Preferred Name (Nickname)
    - Date of Birth
    - Race/Sex
    - Height/Weight
    - Hair Color
    - Eye Color
    - Scars/Birthmarks
    - Address
    - Sensory issues
    - Non-verbal or other communication challenges
    - Visual or hearing impediments
    - Cognitive impairment
    - Prone to seizure
    - Medications needed
    - Attracted to water or other dangerous areas (trains or electric switching stations)
    - Calming methods

- Special interests
  - Emergency Contact information
  - Information specific to the individual
  - Nearby water sources and favorite attractions or locations for where the individual may be found
  - Atypical behavior or characteristics of the individual that may attract the attention of responders
  - Individuals favorite toys, objects, music, discussion topics, likes, or dislikes.
  - Method of preferred communication. If nonverbal: sign language, picture boards, written words, augmentative communication device or apps, etc.
  - If verbal: preferred words, sounds, songs, phrases they may respond to.
  - Identification information. Does the individual wear jewelry, tags, ID card, medical alert bracelets, “If I Need Help” – QR Code Registry Tags IFiNeedHelp.Org
  - Tracking information: What company? What’s the transmitter number?
  - Recommend a Reverse 911 System such as “A Child is Missing.org” for prerecorded message to hardline phones in the area.
  - NOTE: Your Vulnerable Person Alert Form **must** include the following:
    - A hard-physical copy with a current photograph (6 months or less for children under 18). Always carried with you.
    - Backed up digital copies with current photo on USB flash drive (in purse or key chain), Cloud, cell phone, etc. Redundancy is advisable!
- **Safety Resource for Wanderers and Elopers:**
    - Big Red Safety Box – National Autism Association
    - Free resource available at: <http://nationalautismassociation.org/store/#!/NAAs-Be-REDy-Booklet-for-Caregivers/p/57859415/category=2416355>
    - Or simply go to [nationalautismassociation.org](http://nationalautismassociation.org) Click on “Autism & Safety” and then click on “Big Red Safety Box”
  - **Tracking Technology and Aids**
    - Law Enforcement Assistive Technology
      - **Project Lifesaver** – (Radio Frequency)  
Citizens enrolled in Project Lifesaver wear a small personal transmitter around the wrist or ankle that emits an individualized tracking signal. If an enrolled client goes missing, the caregiver notifies their local Project Lifesaver agency, and a trained emergency team responds to the wanderer’s area. [www.projectlifesaver.org](http://www.projectlifesaver.org)
      - **SafetyNet** – (Radio Frequency)  
SafetyNet Tracking™ Systems technology enables public safety agencies to find and rescue clients with cognitive disorders such as autism and Alzheimer’s. They train the authorities in their areas of coverage on how to find lost people using SafetyNet Tracking™ Systems equipment and on

how to effectively communicate with people who have cognitive conditions. <https://safetynettracking.com/>

- **Consumer Monitored GPS Tracking Aids** (The below brands are only examples and not an endorsement for these products.)
  - **AngelSense™** - A child GPS tracker and App for the parent. It allows the parent to monitor the movement of their child through a web-based application, utilizing a computer or smartphone. The child wears a small device which can be affixed to clothing or belt. It allows the parent to monitor the movement of the child in 30 second intervals and to listen and speak with the child. It can be geo-fenced to allow for notifications via text messaging alerts if the child should go outside the designated geo-fenced area(s). [www.angelsense.com](http://www.angelsense.com)
  - **TRiLOC™** by SafeTracks™ - GPS Canada has a wearable watch-like GPS device. It allows the parent to monitor the child via a web-based application utilizing a computer or smartphone. It can be geo-fenced to allow for notifications via text if the child should go outside the designated geo-fenced area(s). Alerts can be set when the child enters or leaves the designated area(s). It also allows for more than one person to receive the notifications. [www.iloctech.com](http://www.iloctech.com)
  - **TRAX™** - Trax operates using GPS Satellites and cellular networks, with a data plan connected to your device. It is a small, lightweight device that can be worn on the wrist like a watch or fastened to an ankle. It can be geo-fenced to allow for notifications on your device if the wearer should go outside the designated geo-fenced area(s). Alerts can be set when the wearer enters or leaves the designated area(s). It also allows for more than one person to receive the notifications. Trax comes with its own subscription and the company claims that it provides free roaming and coverage across many different countries. The device has a unique camera feature that allows for an interesting augmented reality option that helps show where the tracker is nearby when using your phone camera. The company also claims the device has a wireless charging capability and can be immersed underwater for a certain amount of time. <https://traxfamily.com/>

## Cell Phone and Internet Safety Aids

- **Contact your cell phone provider and ask about parental control for your loved one's cell phone.**
  - **AT&T** has a *Secure Family Parental Control App*. The Secure Family app replaces Smart Limits, and for \$7.99 a month it lets you track family member locations, block apps, filter content, pause the internet, set time limits, and trigger alerts on up to 10 lines.
  - **Verizon** has Smart Family. This App helps you find the right balance between device time and family time. Establish time and data controls, and whether your

kids are on Wi-Fi or using your data, you can block apps and set content filters. Cost is currently \$4.99 a month.

- **T-Mobile** has *FamilyMode*, *FamilyWhere* and *Family Allowances* features (Apps). FamilyMode is an app that allows the primary account holder to monitor their family's internet access and use on the T-Mobile cellular network and over any Wi-Fi connection. The app must be installed on the primary account holder's device as well as the devices to be monitored. Family Allowances is an optional T-Mobile-branded feature that allows the primary account holder to assign allowances for minutes, messages, and downloads to all lines on the account. You can set "Always Allowed" numbers to enable unlimited calling or texting and "Never Allowed®" numbers to restrict calling or texting. It also allows usage blocking during certain times of day. T-Mobile FamilyWhere is an optional T-Mobile-branded feature, managed from MyT-Mobile.com or through the T-Mobile branded FamilyWhere app (available only for Android devices), that allows the primary account holder to locate phones on your T-Mobile account and review a seven-day log of location history.
- **Internet Filters for PCs and Laptops**
  - Find reviews of different filtering software at [www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org) and [www.consumerreports.org](http://www.consumerreports.org)
  - You should be able to buy a decent Internet filter for less than \$50
  - For a list of top ten filtering products available, go to <http://internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com>
  - Remember that an Internet filter is a tool and is no substitute for your supervision or for regular communication with loved one. Monitor, monitor, monitor!
- **Additional Internet Safety Resource**
  - For additional information on Internet controls visit:
  - NetSmartz411 a program for the National Center of Exploited and Missing Children at [www.netsmartz411.org](http://www.netsmartz411.org)

## **Resources**

### **University of Florida – Jacksonville Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD).**

Counties serviced: Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns

The University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville CARD, is one of seven state-funded, university-based outreach and support centers in Florida dedicated to optimizing the potential of people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), dual sensory impairment, sensory impairments with other disabling conditions, and related disabilities. CARD services are designed to build on the capacities of state and local resources, not to duplicate or replace them.

#### CARD Services to Families

- Parent training, functional behavioral assessment, behavior support plans
- Training events and workshops
- Referrals to service providers, funding sources, support groups, etc.
- Family support: counseling, support groups, social skills groups, sibshops

CARD Services to Schools

- School Consultation: Consultation with educational professionals
- Training events and workshops for educational professionals (opportunities for continuing education credit)
- Florida DOE/CARD Teacher Partnership

CARD Services in the Community

- Awareness events pertaining to autism and related disabilities for local groups or agencies upon request
- Training events on topics pertaining to autism and related disabilities
- Annual statewide CARD conference
- Dissemination of informational brochures on autism and related disabilities

UF College of Medicine – Jacksonville CARD Office

6271 St. Augustine Rd., Suite 1

Jacksonville, FL 32217

Phone: (904) 633-0760 or 1-800-9-AUTISM

<https://hscj.ufl.edu/pediatrics/autism/>

**The Arc of the St. Johns**

The Arc of the St. Johns provides services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). This organization exist to strengthen people with I/DD and their families by providing the opportunity for hope, for growth and for change; the opportunity for everyone to become a valued, contributing member of our community.

Arc of St. Johns Office

2101 Arc Drive

St. Augustine, FL 32084

Phone: (904) 824-7249

Email: [info@arcsj.org](mailto:info@arcsj.org)

**Contact information for the course instructor:**

**Bart Barta**

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Facebook: Autism Safety 101

Twitter: @AutismCop