

Elopement

What is elopement? Elopement simply means wandering, or escaping. Many children and adults on the autism spectrum have wandering behaviors. Sometimes, the wandering is not an issue for families, but other times it can be very dangerous, especially if the individual wanders into an unsafe environment and their loved ones are unable to locate them. The main reasons behind why a person wanders are twofold: they're either attempting to wander towards something that interests them, or away from something that bothers them. This page offers some tools to keep your loved one safe if he or she elopes.

AWAARE Collaboration

This organization works to prevent wandering incidents and deaths within the autism community. You can find a number of valuable resources, including a "Family Wandering Emergency Plan" on their website, <http://awaare.nationalautismassociation.org/>

FWEP: <http://awaare.nationalautismassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/FWEP.pdf>

Safety Materials: <http://awaare.nationalautismassociation.org/safety-materials/>

Autism ID Card

[The Autism ID Card](#) helps people on the autism spectrum explain their medical condition to Police, EMTs, and other first responders in the event of an emergency.

Website: <http://autismidcard.com/>

Alert Me Bands

Alert Me Bands, like the ICE campaign, believe that we need to take responsibility for our own safety and the safety of our children and do everything we can to be prepared in an emergency situation. We want to make this effort easier on First Responders, bystanders, classmates or Moms who might find a child who has been separated from his parents...Alert Me Bands only require you or your child to wear it and to wear it in a visible manner, meaning secure it on top of a long sleeve shirt or coat when your wrist is covered by clothing. There are no subscriptions, no smartphones needed and no future purchases to make the Alert Me Band effective in an emergency...just wear it so it is visible and it will communicate who to call when you can't.

www.alertmebands.com

Angel Sense

Based on smart data analytics, AngelSense introduces an incredibly accurate, detailed and active monitoring & alerting solution. AngelSense provides an App with a Diary Schedule, Text Alerts, Listen-in options, Smart Search, Non-removable Wearables and a Missing Child Alert.

www.angelsense.com

Iloc technology- TRiLOC GPS Locator-

The next generation of mobile Personal Emergency Response Solutions. TRiLOC provides families and caregivers a level of assurance knowing where their loved ones are. In regards to ASD, TRiLOC can promote independence and self-esteem. The locator is waterproof, battery operated, covered under insurance, and compatible with both iPhone and Android apps.

<http://www.iloctech.com/>

Autism Safety Initiative: National Autism Association

The National Autism Association has initiatives focused on ASD wandering, restraint and seclusion, bullying, and suicide prevention.

<http://www.autismsafety.org/wandering.php>

Autism New Jersey: Your Guide to Safety Resources

<http://www.autismnj.org/document.doc?id=994>

Local Police Participation

If your child frequently wanders, it is very important to call your local police force, introduce yourself and your family, and let them know about the situation. Provide a picture and description of your child, and describe their typical elopement behaviors. It's also important to share with the police force how you want them to handle an elopement situation. For example, is it okay if they place your child in a physical restraint? Are you comfortable with them putting your child in their police vehicle?

***More resources on following page**

What Can We Do to Keep Children Safe Who Might Wander?

Parents, Teachers, and Other Caregivers

SOURCE: Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandsafety/wandering.html>

Plan

- Watch the child's behaviors
- Have an emergency plan to respond
- Keep information about the child up-to-date (picture, description)
- Secure your home (fences, door locks)
- Keep identification on the child (ID bracelet or information card)

Prevent

- Notice signs that the child may wander off before it happens (for example, child makes a certain sound or looks towards the door)
- Be alert about the child's location
- Provide a safe location
- Inform neighbors and school workers
- Alert first responders

Teach Safety Skills

- Responding to safety commands ("stop")
- Stating name and phone number (or showing ID)
- Swimming, crossing the street