



Complete a preliminary search. Then, do not wait more than 15 minutes before you call 9-1-1 and follow these steps.

**SEARCH YOUR HOME (Keep a cell phone with you):**

- Look at dangerous sites on your property and in nearby areas (e.g., pools, stairways, sheds, etc.).
- Look up and down your street.
- Note if any vehicles are missing (including bicycles).
- Check every room, including rooms that are not often used and ALL locked rooms (e.g., laundry or utility rooms). Check all hiding places (e.g., under the bed).
- In multi-unit homes, check all common areas (e.g., stairwells, exits, roofs, etc.).
- Call neighbors to see if your loved one walked into the wrong home by mistake.
- If a gated community, contact the security department and gate house personnel to see if they have any reported sightings of your loved one.
- Note time of disappearance.

**WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES**

- Remain calm and patient as law enforcement conducts their investigation. Your cooperation is in your loved one's best interest.
- Have a digital photo available to give to law enforcement.
- Make note of primary investigator's name, rank, email address, and work and cell phone numbers.
- Ask for the Agency Case Number and notification of National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Number.
- Ask if the A Child is Missing notification system is active in your area. This service is for missing children AND endangered adults.
- Ask the investigator what their next steps will be.
- Stay home to await your loved one's return.
- If your loved one has dementia or autism, secure documentation of the diagnosis from your physician.  
**This is a critical piece of information necessary to issue a Silver Alert or Endangered Missing Person Alert.**

We bring hope and healing to the missing and their families through crisis intervention, prevention, and community education.

## BE PREPARED WITH DETAILED INFORMATION

- Name, description (including what s/he is wearing down to her/his underwear), and a recent photo (digital preferred). Include items your loved one might be carrying (wallet, ID, a favorite purse, cane, hat, etc.).
- Height, weight, nickname, race, social security number, body type, when and where last seen.
- Your contact info (provide a cell phone number) and any nicknames your loved one may call you.
- Loved one's home address and length of residency.

## INVESTIGATORS MAY ASK:

- Who else lives with your loved one? Is s/he capable of accepting and providing information?
- Does your loved one carry a cell phone? Does it have GPS function? Is GPS activated?
- What medicines will your loved one need and when?
- Are firearms in the house? Are any missing? Is anyone or anything else missing?
- Was your loved one ever in the military, a boxer, a hiker, or a hunter? Was your loved one ever captured in combat, imprisoned, MIA, or a POW?
- Are all vehicles accounted for (e.g., bicycles)? Is a car missing? When was the gas tank last filled?
- Does your loved one wear a hearing aid? Was s/he wearing it when s/he disappeared? Could s/he hear if s/he was being called?
- When did your loved one last eat?
- Are there specific phrases that your loved one uses to describe destinations (e.g., school = "the place where little people go"), friends, or family?
- Is there any behavior your loved one exhibits that might draw public attention?

## WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS RECOVERED:

- Register with Medic Alert + Safe Return (888.572.8566), a 24-hour emergency response service for those diagnosed with dementia.
- Contact Alzheimer's Association-Houston (713.314.1313 or [www.alz.org/texas](http://www.alz.org/texas)) which offers support groups and 24/7 information and referral.

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