







## Wandering Issues

Individuals with autism have challenges with safety awareness, making wandering a potentially fatal behavior. Wandering may also be referred to as elopement and running. Wandering risks include drowning, traffic injuries, exposure to weather elements, dehydration, hypothermia, falls and encounters with strangers.

If a person with autism wanders off, this can quickly become a critical incident.

- **Search water first.** Many autistic individuals are drawn to water. It can take 20-40 seconds for a person to drown.
- **Call 911** and advise the dispatcher that your loved one has autism and is missing.
- If the person wears a personal tracking device, immediately initiate tracking measures.

## Additional Resources

-  Emergency: Call 911
-  Non-Emergency Dispatch:  
(877) ASK - LAPD
-  Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:  
Call/Text 988
-  CalHOPE  
<https://www.calhope.org/>  
(833) 317 - HOPE
-  Crises Text Line:  
Text HOME or 741741
-  Suicide Abuse Hotline:  
(800) 622 - 4357

### Department of Developmental Services Resources (DSS)

DDS website: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/>

DDS Autism Resource Hub: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/autism/>

DDS Autism Helpline: 833-815-2337

Email: [autism@dds.ca.gov](mailto:autism@dds.ca.gov)



## AUTISM Resource Guide



### Considerations:

- Install door alarms in your home.
- Utilize GPS devices designed to suit the needs of individuals

*\*The information contained in this pamphlet is not meant to be a comprehensive guide to all the resources available to those with ASD; however, it is meant to give you and your loved one a starting point to obtain the resources needed on an individual basis.*

# Los Angeles Police Department



# Autism

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental condition that affects how a person interacts with others, communicates, learns, and behaves. It is often associated with differences in social communication, the presence of repetitive behaviors, and varying use of nonverbal communication. The impact and severity of ASD differ from person to person. When an individual is first diagnosed with ASD, it can be overwhelming to navigate available resources. This guide is designed to help you find appropriate support and services.

## Disability Resources

The Los Angeles County Regional Centers provide assessments from birth to 18 years of age and will determine eligibility for services to individuals with disabilities, including ASD. They offer case management services and coordinate the services in each person's Individual Program Plan (IPP).

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/listings>  
Info: (833) 421-0061, TTY: 711

### Los Angeles County Aging & Disabilities Department

<https://ad.lacounty.gov/lafound/additional-information/resources-autism-and-developmental-disabilities/>

There are State-Funded Safety ID Kits available to some clients of Regional Centers. If your loved one is eligible, you can request to have this service added to the IPP.

### If I Need Help:

**Autism - Down Syndrome-Dementia**

[www.ifineedhelp.org](http://www.ifineedhelp.org) (661) 524-6732

Easterseals also provides assessments and services to individuals with disabilities.

### Easterseals Southern California The Story of Easterseals

[social.easterseals.com](http://social.easterseals.com)  
1-855-ESSC-411 (1-855-377-2411)

### START Crisis Support Services

[https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/START\\_Brochure\\_4\\_Fold\\_rv2-1.pdf](https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/START_Brochure_4_Fold_rv2-1.pdf)

If your child is showing signs of autism, please contact their school and request an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for them. An IEP is a written plan provided by school districts for students with disabilities who require special education services.

The In-Home Support Services (IHSS) Program will assist persons with in home care/caregiving disabilities with services, so they can remain safely in their home. IHSS will determine eligibility.

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/in-home-supportive-services>

Caregivers for individuals with disabilities have an important role. Some caregivers can experience caregiver burnout and suffer from trauma when dealing with difficult or complex situations. It is important for caregivers to recognize when they need support and to seek the appropriate help. County Regional Centers can provide respite care, personal assistance, coordinated life services, and more to provide relief and extra support to the caregivers.

# Safety Tips

- Talk to your family member and your loved ones with Autism about the police and the responsibilities of law enforcement officers. Explain that the police support all ASD individuals and want to assist them.

### First Responder Social Story

<https://bluelinespectrumsafety.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/First-Responder-Social-Story.pdf>

- Have a crisis plan printed out to help you and others be ready in case your ASD loved one has a crisis and interacts with the police. Include your loved one's name, age, home address, emergency contact phone number(s), recent photo, and details about their ability to respond in a crisis and possible triggers.

### Mental Evaluation 911 Checklist

<https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/P2250340A-ENGLISH-911-CHECKLIST-4.25x11-1.pdf>

- If you call police dispatch, tell the dispatcher that your loved one has Autism.
- Consider displaying Autism decals on your vehicle and/or on the front door of your home to inform approaching officers of their condition.

- If your ASD loved one is non-verbal, consider an ID card/bracelet, or GPS device.

- When contacting law enforcement and selecting a Sensory Kit to calm and soothe your loved one, please ensure that the kit does not contain any items that could potentially harm others, particularly in the event that your loved one exhibits violent behavior (such as heavy sensory toys).

