



MIKE DeWINE

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



PRECAUTIONS CAN KEEP YOUR LOVED ONES SAFE

Families can take steps to keep older adults safe and prevent wandering that can lead to tragic consequences. The Bureau of Criminal Investigation's Missing Persons Unit, part of the Ohio Attorney General's Office, offers important advice and assistance.

Tips to Reduce Wandering

- Encourage movement and exercise to reduce anxiety and restlessness.
- Ensure all basic needs are met.
- Involve your loved one in daily activities, such as folding laundry or preparing dinner.
- Redirect pacing or restless behavior.
- Place color-matching cloth over doorknobs to camouflage them.
- Position a mirror near doorways, which can discourage a person with dementia from exiting.
- Be reassuring if your loved one feels lost, abandoned, or disoriented.
- Enroll your family member in a safe return program, such as Medic Alert + Safe Return or Project Lifesaver.
- Inform neighbors and local emergency responders of your loved one's condition and keep a list of their names and phone numbers.
- Install deadbolt or slide-bolt locks on exterior doors and limit access to potentially dangerous areas.
- Never lock a person with dementia in a home without supervision.

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Missing Persons Unit SERVICES



- BCI's Missing Persons Unit issues Missing Adult Alerts in coordination with local law enforcement when someone over age 65 or with a mental disability is missing and at risk of serious physical harm.
- Staff members provide investigative assistance using law enforcement databases, social media, and other resources.
- The Attorney General's Office maintains a website at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons that lists case details and provides missing person posters and other resources.
- The unit offers a toll-free, 24-hour hotline, **800-325-5604**, to provide information and assistance.



If your loved one
is **MISSING**

- Immediately file a report with your local law enforcement agency.
- Limit access to your loved one's home until law enforcement arrives. Do not touch anything in the missing person's room or home.
- Give law enforcement a complete description of your loved one, recent photos, facts related to the disappearance, social media website accounts, cell phone numbers, friends' information, and anything else they request.
- Be prepared to provide fingerprints, dental records, and DNA to help find your loved one.

**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Missing Persons Unit
800-325-5604**

www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons

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