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Precautions Can Safeguard Loved Ones

Families can take steps to keep older relatives safe and to prevent wandering, which 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 that 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 a 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 a 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.

PROTECTING ★ THE ★ UNPROTECTED

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