



Tools for Caregivers of Those Who Wander and Elope

When a loved one wanders or elopes, we want to know: What can be used to help find him? If someone finds her, how will they know it's my child/loved one? This is a sampling of the products available to help locate and identify your loved one. But **no product can replace safety preparation measures**. For safety strategies, please visit www.pathfindersforautism.org/resources/safety. *Pathfinders or Autism does not endorse any products or services.*

Identification Tools

Maryland State ID

http://www.pathfindersforautism.org/articles/view/parent_tips_navigating-the-mva

There is no minimum age for a MD State ID. If your young adult or adult child does not have a Driver's License, there are several reasons why your son or daughter needs a State ID: formal identification communicating who you are in case of an accident or emergency; to open a bank account; to board an airplane; some towns and cities require ID; tightened security, so many individual places are requiring ID; most jobs require ID; hospitals.

Safety Tats

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

SafetyTat is a temporary safety child ID tattoo that's offered either customized with your mobile phone number or blank so you can write in your cell phone number on them. When applied to the arm of your child or loved one, SafetyTat provides a visible form of child identification that stays in place even when wet.

If I Need Help

<https://ifineedhelp.org/>

Easy free sign up and membership. Personal wearable QR Codes that immediately alert the public that "Here is a person that needs help" & how to help them. Individuals' profiles can be accessed manually from any web browser or via scanned QR Codes. QR Codes can be read quickly by any smartphone. Available as patches, dog tags and shoe tags.

Road ID

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

Road ID was developed for runners, but the tracking and identification products can meet the same needs for the autism/I/DD community. Identification tools include wristbands, stainless steel dog tags, ankle bands, and shoe tags.

MedicAlert

<https://www.medicalert.org/add-on-services/kidsmart>

Along with the ID products, family members can subscribe to the MedicAlert Kid Smart Service plan which includes Wandering Assistance Service. Should your child wander and become lost, MedicAlert Foundation will document the incident and reach out to you if a first responder (or good Samaritan) advises they have located the child. ID products include bracelets, wristbands, shoe tags, pendants, and arm bands.

Sharpie

It may not be stylish, but writing your contact information on your child's arm with a Sharpie may be effective for your needs.

Tracking Devices

Project Lifesaver

<http://www.projectlifesaver.org/>

Project Lifesaver is administered through local agencies. Citizens enrolled in Project Lifesaver wear a small personal transmitter around the wrist or ankle that emits an individualized tracking signal. If an enrolled client goes missing, the caregiver notifies their local Project Lifesaver agency, and a trained emergency team responds to the wanderer's area. To see if Project Lifesaver is available in your area, visit <http://www.projectlifesaver.org/where-we-are/>.

As you investigate personal GPS devices, you may want to consider the following questions, if relevant:

- Does the band have a locking mechanism? Can my loved one remove it easily?
- Can I test the product before purchasing it?
- Is it something my local first responders are familiar with?
- Does the accompanying app work with your phone?
- What is the typical battery life?
- Does the service offer Geo-fence capability?
- Does the product allow for real time mapping?

Road ID App

<http://www.roadid.com/ecrums>

The eCrumb feature of the App allows family/caregivers to track someone in real time, on a map. Road ID was developed for runners, but the tracking and ID products can meet the same needs for the autism/I/DD community.

Project Lifesaver's PAL (Protect And Locate) Tracking System

<http://www.projectlifesaver.org/Pal-info/about-pal/>

Along with the digital watch/transmitter, PAL has a portable receiver which notifies the caregiver of a wandering event through the use of GPS technology. If the caregiver presses the "find" button on the portable receiver the PAL watch will determine the location of the individual. Band has locking feature.

Angel Sense

<https://www.angelsense.com/>

GPS tracking device for kids with sensory sensitivities. A special key for removal by the parent. Receive a text message when your child arrives and departs from a specific place, and for every unexpected car stop and location change. Get reliable child exit alerts, live 10-second updates, and direction to your child on a map.

Care Trak

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

An alarm goes off when your loved one leaves the perimetered area. It also has a mobile locator tracking unit to find your child up to a mile away.

EYEZ-ON

<https://www.eyez-on.com/EYEZON2010/autism-community.html>

Equipped with geo-fence capability to notify you when the wearer leaves a designated area, a 'Find Me' button for when they become frightened or disoriented, and simple and intuitive web interface allowing caregivers to view the whereabouts of a loved one from any web-enabled device.

LOK8U

<http://www.lok8u.com/>

The Freedom Watch uses both radio frequency (RF) and GPS technology. The locating device is a wrist or ankle watch that includes a powerful rechargeable battery and a receiver base that communicates regularly with the watch.