

Why This Program Is Important

The Extra Special Person (ESP) program is similar to the Safe Return Program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association for person with memory disorders who may be prone to wandering.

It is not uncommon for persons with Alzheimer's or dementia to wander and become lost. In fact, according to the Alzheimer's Association, over 60 percent of those with dementia will wander at some point. Wandering can be dangerous—even life-threatening—and can cause stress on the caregivers and family.



How The Program Works

1. A referral is received from a citizen, family member or health care provider and forwarded to the Crisis Intervention/Victim Advocate Unit at the Marion County Sheriff's Office.
2. Personal contact is made with the caller.
3. An on-site assessment is made and the memory-disabled adult is enrolled in the ESP program after the required forms are completed.
4. Program participants are photographed and assigned an ESP bracelet on-site. Each bracelet is identified by number and has the Marion County Sheriff's Office 24-hour contact number printed on the back. If the person becomes lost, contact can be established with the Sheriff's Office to help identify the person.

Who Can Enroll?

Enrollment in the ESP program is open to any Marion County resident who may not be able to speak for themselves and/or anyone who has been diagnosed with some type of memory disorder such as Alzheimer's or dementia, or have a communication problem as the result of a stroke.

This program is free to the public.

How To Enroll

To obtain an application and bracelet, please contact:
Marion County Sheriff's Office
Crisis Intervention/Victim Advocate Unit
PO Box 1987
Ocala, FL 34478
(352) 369-6745

Other Community Resources

Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance for Education & Support, Inc.
(352) 615-3202 or (352) 671-9600

Marion County Senior Services
(352) 620-3501

Public Guardianship Office
(352) 401-6753