



FAMILY

Resource Guide

People with autism are 7x more likely to have police encounters than their neurotypical peers. Here you will find all the available information and resources on how to properly prepare your family for emergency situations. We are happy to provide further support or resources if needed.



PREPARING YOUR FAMILY:

- Here are some resources for preparing for the interaction with Law Enforcement
 - **Autism NJ** - Helping Families Connect with Law Enforcement
 - Insight and helpful tips for parents
 - **Wandering Brochure** - National Autism Association
 - Wandering Prevention and Safety
 - **A Guide to Safety** - Organization for Autism Research
 - This autism safety resource aims to educate parents about how to prevent and mitigate emergency events, safety threats that may affect their child in the future, and how to teach safety habits that will build a foundation for safety in adulthood.
 - **How to Interact with the Police** - Pathfinders for Autism
 - Tips for Individuals and caregivers
 - Interact with other parents, family members, friends, educators, and law enforcement officials to build a sense of community and knowledge-sharing centered on the individuals with autism in their lives.
 - **Think Safety** - Organization for Autism Research

- Here are some programs, products and initiatives that may be useful for your family
 - **Take Me Home Initiative** - Autism Society
 - Take Me Home is a database for people who may need special assistance if they are alone or in times of emergency. This kind of assistance may be required if the person is unable to speak or properly identify themselves, or if they become disoriented or act in a manner that could be misinterpreted by first responders.
 - **Smart 911**
 - More information on the initiative can be found [here](#)
 - Description translated into Spanish can be found [here](#)
 - **Big Red Safety Box**
 - Free safety toolkit for autism families in need of wandering prevention tools
 - Safety Alert Product Ideas
 - Safety Alert Card - Identification for Individuals
 - **National Autism Association**
 - **AutismIDCard.com**
 - Wallet Card
 - Asperger/Autism Network **Template**
 - Safety Alert Decal - Decal for Cars or Houses
 - **Autism-Products.com**
 - Many options on Amazon
 - Autism Alert Tattoos
 - Lost and Found temporary tattoos
 - **Safety Tat**
 - **Awareness Ribbon Gifts**

MORE RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:

- **Caregiver Checklist**

- Sensory Kits
 - Sensory Kits can be a great tool for regulating stress in emergency situations
 - Examples of things to include:
 - Fidget spinners
 - Fidget cubes
 - Bubbles
 - Stickers
 - Pop-its
 - Laminated communication boards
 - Example of a Sensory Kit

MEET & GREETs:

- Planning and Running a PACT Meet & Greet
 - Would you like to plan and host an event where police can interact with your local autism community? Consider a Meet and Greet!
 - Organize a Meet & Greet in your community using these easy steps:
 - **PICK A COMMUNITY LOCATION**
 - Decide where the event will be held. If inside, consider choosing a quiet space with limited doors so that families can come without worry of multiple exits. If outside, again, choose a quiet park that has clear boundaries (fences) for safety.
 - **GATHER SUPPLIES**
 - Be prepared to set up tables of engaging materials for all ages. We suggest police themed coloring pages, sensory play, lego, building/construction, trains, and police themed books. If providing food, consider allergies. We suggest sticking to drinks (coffee, water, juice boxes). We also suggest you have safety materials set up for the autistic community. Ideas of these can be found on our website.

- **INVITE COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

- Find ways to engage and invite the autism community in your area. Ensure that police officers or other law enforcement members will come, dressed in uniform. They will need to be briefed on the goal of the event - to mingle, get to know the autistic community, and give everyone a chance to be in the same space.

- **AT THE EVENT**

- Encourage interactions between officers and community members. Help autistic community members to sit near or say hello to officers. Have scripts ready so they can practice saying "hello" and giving personal information. Allow families to ask questions and vocalize worries. Enjoy interacting with each other!

- **Want to know more?** PACT team members are happy to consult with you on the details of your own event. Just submit a form on our website and we will reach out to you!
- **Here** you will find a PDF of the directions listed above on how to run a meet and greet

PACTAUTISM.COM