

FRAMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT		Next Review Date: Annually
Subject: Lost Elders/Confused Persons		Effective Date: 07/01/2003; Rev. 12/01/2022
Category: 200 - Investigations		Expiration Date: Indefinite
MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCED: 46.2.5		POLICY 200-11
Distribution: Sworn Personnel Communications Specialist	Issuing Authority <i>Lester Baker</i> Lester Baker Chief of Police	

Policy Statement

Increasingly, officers are dealing with people living in the community who suffer from Alzheimer’s disease. Effective intervention is a challenge both for the individual officer and the department.

The National Alzheimer Wanderers Alert Registry, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Elderly Protection Project and the Alzheimer’s Association of Eastern Massachusetts have developed the **Safe Return** program, designed to assist Law Enforcement Agencies. We are also compiling information on local Alzheimer’s patients in our in-house computer under the **History** file.

References

None

Special Terms

None

Policy

It is the policy of this Department to ensure that lost or confused elders who may be suffering from Alzheimer's disease are treated with respect, dignity, and returned safely to their residence.

I. Encountering an Elderly or Confused Person

- A. Ascertain if the individual is capable of telling you their name or showing you where their residence is. If a name is obtained, check our in-house computer under **History** to see if the individual is listed in our files.
- B. Check to see if the individual is wearing a "**Memory Impaired**" bracelet. If they are, immediately contact the toll-free number (1-800-572-1122) on the back of the bracelet. **Safe Return** staff are available 24 hours a day and will be able to furnish the officer with all pertinent information on the individual.
- C. If there is no exterior identification worn, check pockets, wallets, or handbags for any form of identification.
- D. Ascertain if the person appears to be in need of medical attention. If so, transport to the hospital. If no medical attention is required, transport the individual to the station for further investigation.
- E. Check with area hospitals and nursing homes for missing patients. Contact the **Safe Return** toll free number (1-800-572-1122) giving a complete physical description of the subject.

II. Report of Missing Person Suffering from Alzheimer's

- A. Begin with the same procedure for all missing persons.
- B. Immediately call the **Safe Return** toll free number (1-800-572-1122) with all available information.
- C. Check the immediate area where last seen. Re-check hourly.
- D. Check past residence or other familiar areas known to the individual.

- E. Notify, via radio, adjacent towns of missing person report.
- F. Notify change of shifts of the missing person report.
- G. At the discretion of the Commanding Officer, the **Special Operations of the State Police** can be contacted at (508) 820-2121 if additional search support is required. As a supplement to State Police assistance, the **Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)** can also be contacted at (508) 820-2020.
- H. Once the individual has been located, contact the **Safe Return** program and advise them of such.
- I. If the lost or confused elder is not registered with **Safe Return**, advise the family or caregiver of the program.
- J. Enter the individual's information into our in-house computer under the **History** file.