

Take Action When Wandering Occurs

What is Wandering?

It's common for a person living with dementia to wander or become lost or confused about their location, and it can happen at any stage of the disease. Six in 10 people living with dementia will wander at least once; many do so repeatedly.

By registering with S.A.V.E.S Project, you will receive weather resistant QR code stickers to be placed on items your loved one always has with them. These stickers will provide a profile page with emergency contacts for first responders when they are located.

➔ Plan Ahead

- **Start Search Efforts Immediately:** When looking, consider whether the individual is right- or left-handed — wandering patterns generally follow the direction of the dominant hand.
- **Search Surrounding Vicinity:** Many individuals who wander are found within 1.5 miles of where they disappeared. Search areas the person has wandered to in the past.
- **Call 911 Immediately:** If the person is not found within 15 minutes, call 911 to file a missing person's report. Inform the authorities that the person has dementia.

➔ Helpful Tips

- Keep a recent, close-up photo of the person on hand to give to police, should the need arise.
- Create a list of places the person might wander to, such as past jobs, former homes, places of worship or a favorite restaurant.
- Install warning bells above doors or use a monitoring device that signals when a door is opened.
- Store items that may trigger a person's instinct to leave, such as coats, hats, pocketbooks, keys and wallets.