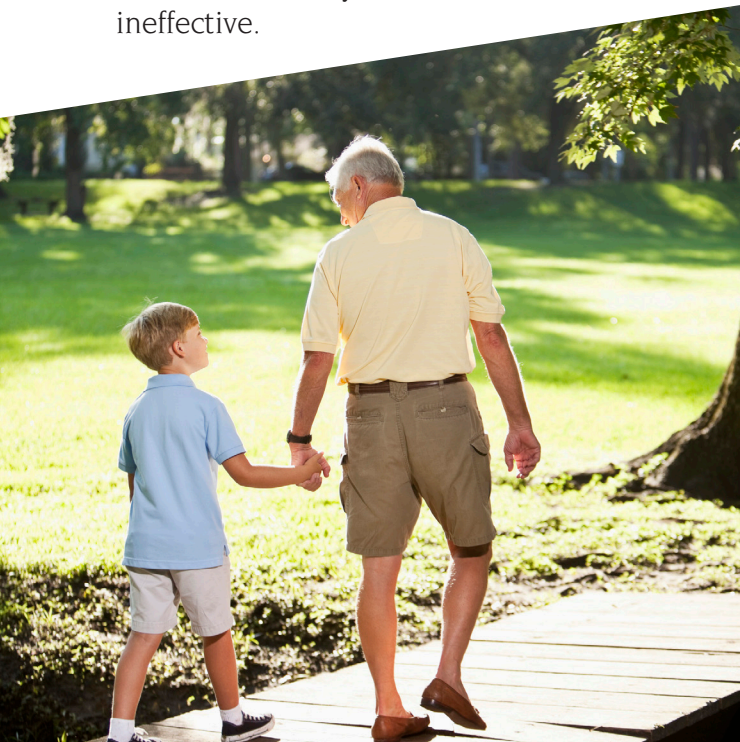


PREVENTION

Measures to Decrease Wandering

- **Encourage regular exercise** to reduce anxiety, agitation and restlessness.
- **Ensure all basic needs are met** (e.g. toileting, nutrition, thirst, pain-free).
- **Carry out daily activities & routines** to provide structure.
- **Reassure** the person if he or she feels lost, abandoned or disoriented.
- **Avoid busy, noisy places** that are confusing and can cause disorientation (e.g. shopping centers, restaurants).
- **Place deadbolts either high or low** on exterior doors.
- **Control access to car keys.**
- **Do not leave a person with dementia unsupervised** in new surroundings.
- **Provide behavior modifying medications** only if other measures are ineffective.



RESOURCES

Alzheimer's Association

www.alz.org

MedicAlert + Safe Return Program

toll-free number 1.888.572.8566

Comfort Zone

www.alz.org/comfortzone

National Silver Alert Program

www.nationalsilveralert.org

Mississippi Silver Alert

[www.dps.state.ms.us/crime-investigation/
bureau-of-investigation/silver-alert/](http://www.dps.state.ms.us/crime-investigation/bureau-of-investigation/silver-alert/)

DMH Division of Alzheimer's Disease & Other Dementia

[http://www.dmh.ms.gov/service-options/
alzheimers-disease-and-other-dementia/](http://www.dmh.ms.gov/service-options/alzheimers-disease-and-other-dementia/)

PARTNERS



www.dmh.ms.gov



www.msnurses.org



www.alz.org/ms



www.dps.state.ms.us



The **SILVER** **ALERT** System

Mississippi's Silver Alert System is designed to help find missing persons 18 years or older with a dementia or other cognitive impairment. This system helps law enforcement to locate that person as quickly as possible.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS of WANDERING

The Person:

- Returns home from a walk or drive later than usual
- Tries to fulfill former obligations (e.g. going to work, picking up children)
- Tries or wants to “go home” even when at home
- Is restless, paces, or makes repetitive movements
- Has a hard time locating familiar places
- Acts as if doing a hobby or chore, but nothing gets done
- Acts nervous or anxious in noisy or crowded areas

CRITERIA for SILVER ALERT



1. The missing adult, age 18 or older, is believed to have dementia or other cognitive impairment.
2. The person is believed to be missing and in imminent danger regardless of circumstance.

PREPARATION

Plan for Possible Wandering:

Provide easy identification:

- Label clothing with name and telephone number
- ID jewelry (e.g. bracelet or necklace) or monitoring device

Secure the environment:

- Use locks or deadbolts on exterior doors
- Remove keys or disable vehicles

Have vital information available:

- Write an accurate description
- Obtain a recent photo
- Freeze skin swab and lock of hair in sealed plastic bag

Consider:

- MedicAlert® + Safe Return® program for a 24 hour nationwide emergency response service for persons with dementia
- Comfort Zone® to provide a location-based mapping service which provides the location of a person with dementia
- Project Lifesaver to provide a bracelet that emits a tracking signal 24 hours a day. **Not available in all areas*

RESPONSE

Initiating a Request for Silver Alert

1. The family, legal caregiver or custodian must file a missing person report with the local law enforcement agency where the person became missing with the following information:
 - Description of missing person including physical characteristics, clothing and recent photo if available
 - Description of known circumstances under which person became missing including time, place, direction, possible destinations, and if person was walking or in a vehicle
2. Information is entered into the National Crime Information Center and the Bureau of Investigation of the Dept. of Public Safety will evaluate criteria.
3. Only the Silver Alert coordinator, or his or her designee, may authorize activation of a statewide Silver Alert.
4. If the person missing is believed to be in a vehicle, the Silver Alert coordinator may send information and available photos to statewide communication systems, news media, and other forms of public communication or electronic resources.
5. Termination of the Silver Alert is usually issued 24 hours after the airing of the latest and most current information or when the case has been resolved.

