



SAFEENCOUNTER: PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE



Do you have someone in your care who would benefit from being registered in the SafeEncounter account for the Palatine Police Department? If so, please signup today and register your dependent by following this link:

<https://bit.ly/PPD-SafeEncounter>

If you have any questions, please contact the Palatine Police Crime Prevention Unit at (847)359-9061.

A New Way to Serve the Community

SafeEncounter is a revolutionary digital solution designed to protect the most at-risk members of the community in emergency or crisis situations. Inspired by the Pensacola Police Department's Take Me Home project, SafeEncounter is a centralized, user-submitted database where family members of those with cognitive disabilities and communication issues can create accounts accessible by law enforcement. Each profile includes the at-risk individual's name, age, physical description, photos, health conditions or disabilities, and emergency contact information. Should first responders find one of these individuals wandering or lost, they can safely return them to their families, even if communication is not possible.



For Those Who Wander

SafeEncounter was developed to provide a better tracking system for community members suffering from impairments and conditions that can negatively affect communication and memory. Wandering is common amongst people with intellectual disabilities and can lead to many frightened phone calls to police when a family cannot locate a vulnerable loved one. First responders who arrive on the scene need a more effective way of identifying lost individuals, especially those who are unable to communicate verbally. SafeEncounter keeps this information at officers' fingertips, giving them access to not only family contact information, but also to helpful tips about managing and deescalating the situation at hand. By providing officers with guidance on how best to approach the individual, crises can be averted, and the encounter does not cause undue distress.

The Inner Workings of SafeEncounter

The SafeEncounter platform is straightforward and user-friendly, while providing valuable information and guidance to law enforcement. Some of the most notable features and benefits include:

Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Statistics

- More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's
- 6 in 10 people living with Dementia will wander at least once
- Over 25% of people with Autism are non-verbal or use very limited communication
- Though less than 1% of Americans suffer from Schizophrenia, it is one of the most dangerous mental health disorders due to its symptoms and manifestations
- Alzheimer's can cause the individual to lose the ability to recall names, faces, and personal information making communicating with police extremely challenging
- While many cases of Bipolar Disorder are mild and can be managed with medication, severe cases cause confusion, strong emotion, and a tendency to wander off

User-Submitted Profiles

Family members can choose to create accounts for their vulnerable loved ones. Following the simple wizard in the platform, they will be prompted to include distinguishing information such as physical description, explanations of their condition, best ways to manage emergencies, photos, contact information, and more. These accounts are editable at any time to ensure the profile stays up-to-date.

Mapping Capabilities

It's best for first responders to understand their community before an emergency even takes place. With SafeEncounter's mapping feature, registered individuals are displayed at their home or registered address on a map. Officers can scan the area to help identify a wandering person, and once found, they know where to return them. The map is only visible to officers, not other users.

24/7 Access

The SafeEncounter solution is accessible 24/7 by both registrants and law enforcement. No matter the time of day, first responders will be able to search for an individual on-scene from the laptops in their response vehicles, and registrants can update profiles to keep all dependent information current. This feature is particularly useful if an individual is found wandering late at night, or early in the morning when family members may not have noticed their disappearance.

Top-Notch Security

Stored in the Microsoft Azure Government Cloud, all information is accessible anywhere with internet access without sacrificing security. Government-level protection safeguards all accounts, ensuring that the only people with access to listed information are the user and first responders. Settings in the platform allow users to select which districts they want to display information to, adding an extra layer of protection and comfort for anyone wary of disclosing sensitive information online. Only authorized law enforcement can enter the database, and all information is kept confidential.

Eligible Conditions

Mental health is a big concern across the United States. SafeEncounter works to protect those with the most severe cases of mental illness, as well as those with cognitive impairments, intellectual disabilities, and non-verbal communication styles. Individuals are eligible to join the program if they have any of the following:

- Alzheimer's/Dementia
- Down's Syndrome
- Autism
- Schizophrenia
- Bipolar Disorder
- Cognitive Disabilities
- Non-Verbal Communication Styles