

# Identification Tools for Caregivers of Those Who Wander and Elope

When a loved one wanders or elopes, we want to know: What can be used to help find him? If someone finds her, how will they know it's my child/loved one? This is a sampling of the products available to help locate and identify your loved one. But keep in mind, **no product can replace safety preparation measures**. For safety strategies, please visit [www.pathfindersforautism.org/resources/safety](http://www.pathfindersforautism.org/resources/safety). *Pathfinders for Autism does not endorse any products or services.*

## Identification Tools

### Maryland State ID

<https://pathfindersforautism.org/articles/maryland-services/parent-tips-navigating-the-mva-for-state-ids-drivers-licenses-and-other-services/>

There is no minimum age for a MD State ID. If your young adult or adult child does not have a Driver's License, there are several reasons why your son or daughter needs a State ID: formal identification communicating who you are in case of an accident or emergency; to open a bank account; to board an airplane; some towns and cities require ID; tightened security, so many individual places are requiring ID; most jobs require ID; hospitals.

### Safety Tats

<http://www.safetytat.com/>

SafetyTat is a temporary safety child ID tattoo that's offered either customized with your mobile phone number or blank so you can write in your cell phone number on them. When applied to the arm of your child or loved one, SafetyTat provides a visible form of child identification that stays in place even when wet.

### If I Need Help

<https://www.ifineedhelp.org/>

Easy free sign up and membership. Personal wearable QR Codes that immediately alert the public that "Here is a person that needs help" & how to help them. Individuals' profiles can be accessed manually from any web browser or via scanned QR Codes. QR Codes can be read quickly by any smartphone. Available as patches, dog tags and shoe tags.

### Road ID

<https://www.roadid.com/>

Road ID was developed for runners, but the tracking and identification products can meet the same needs for the autism/I/DD community. Identification tools include wristbands, stainless steel dog tags, ankle bands, and shoe tags.

### MedicAlert Found® – Support Services for Autism

<https://www.medicalert.org/autism>

The MedicAlert Found® program provides an additional layer of protection for the autism community by offering free enrollment, a free medical ID bracelet or necklace, a free medical ID shoe tag and free 24/7 Wandering Support Service.

### **Sharewear**

<https://www.sharewearshop.com/>

Products connect to free digital profiles created by the caregiver. Profiles can be accessed without apps or downloads, by any smartphone in the event of an emergency. Just tap the band with a smartphone and the profile will appear. Geolocation plans are available to alert the caregiver when the product is tapped.

### **The Maryland Masonic Child Identification Program**

<https://mdmasons.org/philanthropy/chips/>

When a child participates in the program, all vital statistics are recorded. The child is photographed and digital fingerprints are taken. Additionally, the child is photographed and a video recording of the child speaking is made. All of the above information is then recorded onto a CD. A cheek swab of the child's DNA is collected painlessly. Everything is then sealed in an envelope and given to the parent for safekeeping. The Freemasons retain none of the information. This service is provided free of charge by the Freemasons of Maryland.

### **Free Child ID Kit from the Polly Klaas Foundation**

<https://www.pollyklaas.org/product/50-child-safety-kit-booklets/>

The free Fingerprint & DNA document provides all the forms you need, along with all the instructions.

### **Child ID Kit from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**

[https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/NCMEC\\_Child\\_ID\\_Kit\\_wc\\_FEMA\\_508.pdf](https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/NCMEC_Child_ID_Kit_wc_FEMA_508.pdf)

Complete this Child ID Kit by attaching a recent photograph of your child and listing all identifying and medical information.

### **Sharpie**

It may not be stylish, but writing your contact information on your child's arm with a Sharpie may be effective for your needs.