

POLICE ADVICE: MISSING PERSONS

An Information Sheet for Carers

■ The ID Profile Form

The purpose of the ID Profile Form is to provide details of the person with Dementia in the event of them wandering off and not returning. The form should be given to the Police, community organisations/members and clinics to assist them in their search and to accurately identify the person when found. The details on the form should be updated as the person's capabilities alter and the photograph must kept up to date.

Fill in the Identification Profile form and keep it in a safe place making sure that the caregiver or facility of the person with Dementia knows where to find in case of an emergency. It is essential to also keep a copy electronically (filed under the residents surname and ID number) in order for it to be emailed to the relevant parties to facilitate a quicker search. It may also be helpful for all family members to have one especially if they take the person out from time to time or if they have them staying over. It is also essential to have should the person with Dementia be going away on a holiday. If you are travelling with the person who has Dementia it is important to take these forms along with you. Remember to attach a laminated card as indicated which can be attached with a nappy/diaper pin securely to a part of their clothing that they cannot reach in order to fiddle with it. Write the telephone number of your local Police Station on the form. When travelling, use the national emergency number if you do not know the local numbers.

■ If the Person with Dementia goes missing:

1. Keep calm
2. Make a thorough but quick search of the home, outbuildings and surroundings
3. Notify the neighbours
4. Notify the local police. This **MUST** be done within half an hour even if there are people out searching for the person and you think you may be able to locate them yourself.

■ Contact your Local Police

Always have the number of the local police station handy and **VISIBLE**. Contact the local police either by using the direct telephone number under the **POLICE DEPARTMENT** or the **EMERGENCY SERVICES** section in the telephone directory. When you speak to the person on the phone, tell them that the missing person has Alzheimer's disease or a related Dementia and that there is thus a concern for their safety. You may need to explain what Dementia is and how it affects the person.

- **Visit by the Police**

In SA this could well take time! Only brief details will have been taken telephonically and thus if the Police officer is coming to visit you at home for more details, make sure that you have the ID form ready to give them. If you go out searching, ensure that someone remains at home to take messages and to pass on relevant information to those who are out searching. Of course somebody would need to be at home to take care of the person with Dementia should they return in the interim.

- **Description of the Missing Person**

The Police officer will require the ID form and a description of the clothing that the person was wearing at the time that they were last seen. Other questions may include, for example, who last saw the person that is missing. This person will be interviewed as they may be able to supply valuable information in addition to what is on the form.

- **Familiar Places**

You will be asked whether the missing person has ever gone missing before. If so, where were they last found? The area will be checked. People with Dementia and short term memory loss may have strong memories from their childhood and are sometimes found in areas where they grew up, looking for places that no longer exist, or near activities that they recall from long ago.

- **Further Action by the Police**

Details will be circulated to all local officers in neighbouring areas but before any action is taken, the police will usually search the home and outbuildings to ensure that the missing person has not returned without being noticed. **This is standard procedure and should not be misinterpreted as distrust of the person who has reported the incident.**

- **Identification**

One of the difficulties in finding people with Alzheimer's disease or another form of Dementia is identifying who they are. They often go missing late at night or in the early hours of the morning and may be unable to communicate details such as their identity or where they live. They might not be able to call out or answer when called. One possible way around this problem is for them to wear some form of laminated identity card or a bracelet. **MedicAlert** together with **Dementia SA** have brought out a specific ID bracelet for people who have Dementia. Such a form of identification, be it a necklace or a badge as well, will give their name and a contact telephone number. Another helpful suggestion is to have a name tag / label sewn into every item of clothing that they wear. This will also assist in supplying the necessary details.

If the person returns home on their own accord, please notify the police and all others who are searching IMMEDIATELY.

POLICE PHONE NUMBER

(State your local Police telephone number here).....

▪ **After the Incident**

Reassure the person who has returned and calm them down. Give them something to eat and drink if they have been missing for a while. Check for any signs of injury.

Ensure that the police have **returned** the ID form.

On the back of the form, record the following:

- The date
- The length of time that the person was missing
- Where they were found

For further information, call Dementia SA on 021 4210077/78

Or NATIONAL HELPLINE : 0860 636 679 / 0860 MEMORY

www.dementiasa.org



The above information has been used with permission of and thanks to the Alzheimer's Society New Zealand and adapted for South African conditions. Information Sheet Reference 33-February 2008

BACK (in ENGLISH if possible)

I am a resident at (facility)
xxxxxxx (ADDRESS).

If you find me wandering,
confused and anxious, please
treat me with love, kindness and
respect.

Please take me back to my
home at xxxxxxx safely or phone
(021) 390 8888 or
cell : 083 222 3333 or
take me to the nearest SAPS
office (tel: xxxxxxx)

Thank you for being so kind!

(logo or your name)

FRONT



SUNSHINE
TRAMAZINI

(NAME OF FACILITY WITH LOGO
& CONTACT DETAILS OR A
CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER
IF CARED FOR AT HOME)

YOUR ORGANISATION LOGO AND CONTACT DETAILS



PBO 93002214 NPO 049 191

IDENTIFICATION PROFILE

Most recent photograph – colour if possible

Date this form was compiled : _____

REVISED : _____ REVISED : _____

NAME: _____

NAME THAT THE PERSON MAY ANSWER TO : _____

AGE: _____ SEX: _____

PHYSICAL CONDITION : (e.g. small build etc) _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

CELL PHONE NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS WHERE THE PERSON CURRENTLY RESIDES :

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES (as detailed as possible, including gait (the way they walk e.g. with a limp, shuffles feet etc.)

COLOUR OF EYES: _____ **HAIR:** _____

WEARS GLASSES _____ **HEARING AID** _____ **DENTURES** _____

HEIGHT _____ **BUILD** _____

LANGUAGE _____ **HEARING** _____

STATE OF REASONING / UNDERSTANDING _____

ABLE TO COMMUNICATE OR NOT _____

MOST FREQUENTLY VISITED PLACES (local church, etc) : _____

ACTIVITIES THE PERSON LIKES OR POSSIBILITIES WHERE THEY MAY BE FOUND : (e.g. trying to catch a bus to go to work, going to a restaurant etc.) _____

CLOTHING WORN / IDENTIFYING FEATURES AT TIME THE PERSON WENT MISSING:

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION : (medications that the person is taking, other health conditions besides dementia, etc)

