



## Pikeville Police Department

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**Pikeville, Tennessee** – The Pikeville Police Department is announcing a new initiative, Project Safe Return. Project Safe Return is set to assist Law Enforcement Officers and search and rescue missions involving individuals with cognitive and behavioral disorders, such as dementia, Alzheimer's and individuals with autism spectrum disorders. This program is designed to equip first responders with crucial information to help identify and safely return vulnerable individuals who may wander and get lost.

By compiling important details such as medical history, behavioral tendencies, and preferred locations, Project Safe Return aims to give first responders information at their fingertips, such as diagnosis, triggering events, calming strategies, ways to communicate with individuals, and most importantly multiple emergency contacts should the need arise. It will also help streamline search and rescue efforts and prevent potential harm to at-risk individuals. Through collaboration with caregivers, medical professionals, and communities, this initiative seeks to create a network of support that prioritizes the safety and well-being of those most in need.

With strategic partnerships with local agencies, advocacy groups, and healthcare providers, Project Safe Return aims to establish a comprehensive support network dedicated to safeguarding the lives of vulnerable individuals. By raising awareness, promoting education, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, this initiative strives to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for individuals with cognitive and behavioral disorders.

If you or someone you know has a cognitive and/or behavioral disorders, such as dementia, Alzheimer's, or autism spectrum disorders, please complete the Project Safe Return form and submit it to the Pikeville Police Department. This form can be found on the Pikeville Police Department's website at [https://pikevilletn.com/project\\_safe\\_return/](https://pikevilletn.com/project_safe_return/). This information will be kept confidential and only shared with surrounding law enforcement jurisdictions to assist in search and rescue operations. For more information, contact Assistant Chief David Decker at [DavidDeckerPPD@Bledsoe.net](mailto:DavidDeckerPPD@Bledsoe.net).

Project Safe Return is a crucial step towards enhancing the safety and well-being of at-risk individuals in our community. By working together towards a common purpose, we can ensure that no individual is left behind in times of crisis.

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*Criminals hide their activities from Law Enforcement; however, they do not hide from the citizens. By working together, we can protect and enhance our small-town life.*