

WANDERER'S IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

INFORMATION & AUTHORIZATION

The Alzheimer's Support Network has joined forces with the Collier County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) to help identify and quickly return wandering persons suffering from memory loss to their homes. Numerous cases of lost persons are reported in Collier County each year and hundreds more are believed to go unreported. Recognizing that the problem is expected to grow as our population ages, the Alzheimer's Support Network and CCSO has formed a special registry for patients who suffer from memory disorders and have a tendency to wander away.

Training information has been made available to CCSO personnel to enable them to recognize and deal with various situations involving Alzheimer's patients, including wandering. The Wanderer's Identification Program's special registry involves the use of an identification bracelet or necklace that has been engraved with the patient's first name or nickname, a code number, the words "Memory Impaired", and CCSO's telephone number. You may request that the words "Memory Impaired" be left off your loved one's bracelet or necklace. The identification/code number, along with the other patient information, is registered on computers maintained by both the Alzheimer's Support Network and Collier County's 911 System.

The Wanderer's Identification Program is in effect seven days a week, 24 hours a day. The bracelet or necklace permits authorities to identify people who cannot remember who they are or where they live, and reunite them with their families. Being able to look at a bracelet or necklace, make a phone call, and immediately and safely return a lost person to his or her home is the goal of the Wanderer's Identification Program.

In conjunction with the bracelet or necklace, a wallet sized "In an Emergency Card" containing the same information as that on the bracelet or necklace is issued to the caregiver. This card will alert law enforcement and emergency medical personnel that the caregiver cares for someone with Alzheimer's disease and that the person with Alzheimer's disease should not be left alone should the caregiver become incapacitated.

The Wanderer's Identification Program has helped hundreds of families in Collier County. There is no charge for this Program.

The release below, if signed, will permit the Alzheimer's Support Network to obtain information and sign your loved one up for the Wanderer's Identification Program.

_____ *I, the undersigned caregiver, individually and on behalf of the named person, authorize local law enforcement and cooperating not for profit organizations to use the information provided on the attached Application form as necessary. I agree to release local law enforcement and cooperating not for profit organizations from any and all liability for any act of omission while acting on behalf of the Wanderer's Identification Program.*

Caregiver's Signature

Date