



Wilton SEPTA is pleased to inform you that once again, we are working closely with the **Wilton Police Department** to discuss issues of mutual concern, to special needs parents and Wilton first responders, with a particular focus on children who wander.

Captain Robert Cipolla of the Wilton Police Department, has offered families some specific ways to protect our children and to increase the effectiveness of first responders who may meet a child with special needs, in the event of an emergency.

Create a Fact Sheet for Your Child: Captain Cipolla suggested that parents should create a readily available fact sheet for their child(ren) that is updated at least every six months. With this resource in hand, a parent or caregiver could immediately provide vital information to police and other first responders, should a child wander away or go missing. Captain Cipolla recommended that the fact sheet include:

- A current photograph, preferably taken head on and showing hair and eye color
- Height and weight
- Any specific identifying information (e.g., birthmarks)
- Diagnosis, if you wish to include it
- Any information that might be pertinent to a first responder, such as verbal ability, fear of loud noises, something that calms/soothes child, etc.

Use an Identity Bracelet: Captain Cipolla also suggested that parents obtain a durable identity bracelet or tag with the child's name and contact information on it. He advised parents to consider adding the child's diagnosis to the bracelet, particularly if the child has difficulty communicating. In this way, first responders and others will understand the child's specific challenges and intervene accordingly. For example:

Charles "Charlie" Brown
If found, contact Mom at 203-555-1212
Autistim Spectrum Disorder – limited speech

Act Quickly: Should a child wander off, Captain Cipolla urges parents to contact the local police immediately. Wilton has a fast and effective system in place to handle these instances.

Register Your Address in the Event of an Emergency: Families of children and adults with special needs can register their family's name and address in the Wilton Police Department's Computer Assisted Dispatch or "CAD" system. Having your address flagged with key details could prove vital in the event of a police, fire, or health emergency.

If you wish to register your address in the CAD system, please fill out the attached form and send it via email to Robert.Cipolla@WiltonCT.ORG. Please use the subject line – INFORMATION FOR THE CAD SYSTEM. The Police Department will acknowledge receipt of your email. You may also wish to include an electronic photograph of your child(ren) with your email submission, but please note that such photos do become “out of date” quickly, so always have a recent photo on hand as part of the “Fact Sheet” packet described above.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please know that Wilton SEPTA and the Wilton Police Department strive to keep you informed of any new developments or procedures that might benefit your family and child, in the event of an emergency. We are grateful to be working with Wilton’s supportive and knowledgeable community of first responders to keep you safe.