

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

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Public awareness is key towards ensuring expedient access to the Silver Alert Program.

Together, we can all help towards saving the lives of others.

- It is recommended that all Texas senior citizens, 65 years and older with an impaired mental condition, have acceptable documentation of that condition.
- Accepted documentation by the DPS, is defined as a signed and dated statement issued on a physician's letterhead, diagnosing the mental impairment.
- Discuss obtaining proper documentation with caregivers and legal guardians, before a wandering incident takes place.
- If a risk for wandering has been identified in the patient, refer the family to the Alzheimer's Association for information on wandering triggers and prevention at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or (800) 272-3900.
- Encourage families to create a wandering person profile containing the name, date of birth, current photo, physical description, clothing description, documented diagnosis, vehicle information, license plate number, and a list of previous residences and favorite places.

# alzheimer's association™



### Contact Information:

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ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION  
(800) 272-3900  
Capital of Texas Chapter  
Greater Dallas Chapter  
Houston & Southeast Texas Chapter  
North Central Texas Chapter  
Star Chapter  
<http://www.alz.org/index.asp>  
(800) 272-3900

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PROGRAM  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/alzheimers/default.shtm>  
(800) 242-3399

TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
Texas Department of Public Safety  
<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/index.htm>  
(512) 424-2208

### Training Information:

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If your organization would like training regarding the Texas Silver Alert Program, contact the State AMBER, Blue and Silver Alert Program Coordinator at (512) 424-2208.

# PHYSICIAN'S GUIDE



# Texas Silver Alert Program

Alzheimer's Association  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
Texas Division of Emergency Management

## **SILVER ALERT NETWORK**

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In response to legislation enacted September 1, 2007, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) implemented the Texas Silver Alert Network as a means to assist law enforcement in the recovery of missing senior citizens statewide. Silver Alerts typically resemble those alerts issued for abducted children (AMBER Alerts), using similar notification technologies (with the exception of the Emergency Alert System - EAS) to alert the public.

## **ACTIVATION**

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All six (6) criteria must be met in order to activate the Network:

- Is the missing person 65 years of age or older?
- Is the senior citizen's domicile in Texas?
- Does the senior citizen have a diagnosed impaired mental condition, and does the senior citizen's disappearance pose a credible threat to the senior citizen's health and safety? (Law enforcement shall require the family or legal guardian of the missing senior citizen to provide documentation from a medical or mental health professional of the senior citizen's condition).
- Is it confirmed that an investigation has taken place verifying that the senior citizen's

disappearance is due to his/her impaired mental condition, and alternative reasons for the senior citizen's disappearance have been ruled out?

- Is the Silver Alert request within 72 hours of the senior citizen's disappearance?
- Is there sufficient information available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the senior citizen? (Highway signs will be activated only if accurate vehicle information is available AND it is confirmed that the senior citizen was driving the vehicle at the time of the disappearance).

Once the DPS has confirmed a request by law enforcement meets the criteria above, the Texas Division of Emergency Management immediately notifies the following for dissemination of information within the advisory area:

- Local, state and federal law enforcement agencies;
- Participating media outlets;
- Texas Department of Transportation Highway Signs (if applicable per criteria);
- Texas Lottery Commission; and
- Independent Bankers Association of Texas.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

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Accepted documentation by the DPS is defined as a signed and dated statement issued on a physician's letterhead, diagnosing the mental impairment. In those circumstances where the family or legal guardian has not obtained this type of documentation, the health care physician can release this information on letterhead to law enforcement. According to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures, Art. 63.007. RELEASE OF MEDICAL RECORDS. (a) At the time a report is made for a missing child or adult, the law enforcement officer taking the report shall give a medical release form to the parent, spouse, adult child, or legal guardian who is making the report. The officer receiving the report shall endorse the form with the notation that a missing child or missing adult report has been made in compliance with this chapter. When the form is properly completed by the parent, spouse, adult child, or legal guardian, and contains the endorsement, the form is sufficient to permit any physician, health care facility, or other licensed health care provider in this state to release to the law enforcement officer presenting the release dental records, blood-type, height, weight, X rays, and information regarding scars, allergies, or any unusual illnesses suffered by the person who is reported missing.