



Autism Identification Cards

Q What are autism identification cards?

A Autism identification cards are a way for autistic individuals to share information about their diagnosis and support needs.

Autism identification cards may include valuable information such as how the autistic individual communicates, behaviors they may exhibit, sensory sensitivities and who to call if they need assistance.

Q Where can an individual with autism get an autism identification card?

A Individuals with autism or their family members can create a personalized card or there are [templates](#) available online to download and print. There are also apps that can be used on a phone. The Pennsylvania State Police developed an information card that can be found on their [Safety Resources page](#).

Q When should someone use an autism identification card?

A These cards can be used in emergency settings, with police, or when an autistic person may not be able to communicate verbally with others.

Once an individual has an autism identification card, they should keep it in a safe place when going into the community like a wallet, backpack, phone carrying case, or with auto insurance and vehicle registration information if the individual drives.

Q How can someone safely use an autism identification card?

A Parents and caregivers should be sure to discuss the use of the card with their family member and teach the following tips when interacting with police officers:

- If stopped by police, the individual should keep hands visible at all times, such as down by their side or placed in their lap.
- If an individual is able to communicate that they have an autism identification card, they should ask the officer if it is okay to retrieve the card.
- If a police officer asks for identification, show the autism identification card at that time. If the individual with autism is the driver of the vehicle, they should also show their Driver's License at that time.
- Only reach into a bag, pocket, or glove compartment to get identification when an officer gives permission.
- Stand at least one arm's length away from the police officer. If an individual is in the vehicle, they should stay in the vehicle unless told by the officer to get out of the vehicle.
- An individual should continue to keep their hands to themselves, such as by their side, and should not touch the police officer or police dog if one is there.
- Remain calm by taking deep breaths and wait for further instructions from the police officer.