



EDGEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT
55 RIVER ROAD
EDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY 07020

DONALD MARTIN
CHIEF OF POLICE

The Edgewater Police Department announces a new program to help people with Autism Spectrum Disorder during a traffic stop. It's called the Blue Envelope Program.

Being pulled over by a police officer can make anyone anxious. For someone with Autism Spectrum Disorder, it can cause an even greater issue, between the heightened situation, the flashing lights, the sounds of radios, and other noises.

That's why the Edgewater Police Department started a Blue Envelope Program. We are trying to avoid any misunderstandings between our officers and drivers that have Autism Spectrum Disorder.

If someone with Autism Spectrum Disorder gets pulled over, the driver shows the blue envelope. The driver will keep their driver's license, vehicle registration, vehicle insurance, and an emergency contact card inside the blue envelope.

The outside of the blue envelope contains instructions for the driver, like keeping hands on the wheel, the officer may shine their flashlight in the car and the police car may have flashing lights.

On the reverse side of the envelope, it tells the officers what to do, like simplifying requests and if the driver becomes upset contact a person on the emergency contact card.

A checked off box will also indicate whether the driver is verbal or nonverbal.

If you or a loved one would like to participate in the Blue Envelope Program, please stop at the Edgewater Police Department located at 55 River Road or call our main number (201)943-2200.

IMPORTANT VEHICLE PAPERS

- CONTENTS:
- DRIVER'S LICENSE
 - VEHICLE INSURANCE CARD
 - CONTACT CARD
 - VEHICLE REGISTRATION

POLICE OFFICER:

- Driver may exhibit signs of anxiety due to bright lights and noises (your radio).
- Driver may display repetitive body movements or fidgeting and may have unusual eye contact.
- Speak clearly and use the most simplistic explanations possible, limit unnecessary details
- Allow driver extra time to respond, driver may need more time to formulate a response.
- Clearly tell the driver when the stop is over and they can leave.
- If the driver becomes upset consider contacting the person listed on the contact card.

DRIVER IS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

DRIVER IS VERBAL

DRIVER IS NONVERBAL

"BLUE ENVELOPE"

IMPORTANT MOTOR VEHICLE PAPERS!!

- Keep your hands on the steering wheel until otherwise directed, even if the officer is not at your car.
- The officer may shine a flashlight in your car, may have a radio, and may have flashing lights on their car.
- When the officer gets to your car let them know you have a blue envelope, answer the officer's questions, and ask the officer before moving any parts of your body.

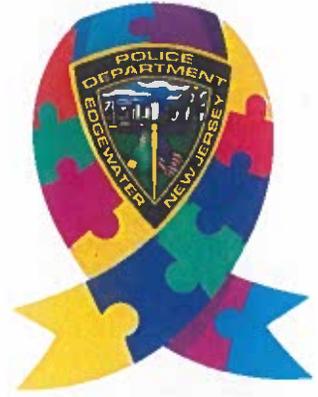
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POLICE OFFICER SPECTRUM AWARENESS GUIDE ON BACK OF ENVELOPE

AUTISM

- I am Autistic
- I may have trouble communicating
- Eye contact may be difficult for me
- I am easily overwhelmed by intense sensory input, like sounds and light
- When I am scared or frustrated, I may act aggressively
- If I am lost or in trouble, my emergency contact is on the back of this card
- Please be patient with me



**AUTISM
AWARENESS**

I HAVE AUTISM

My Name: _____

My Guardian / Parent: _____

Their Phone #: _____

Someone Else I Know: _____

Their Phone #: _____

My Local Police Department: _____

Their Phone #: _____



**AUTISM
AWARENESS**