

BLUE ENVELOPE

CAPE ELIZABETH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dear Family Member or Care Provider,

You know better than anyone the struggles that are faced by those who have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It is sometimes difficult to communicate properly with those who have ASD. The “**Blue Envelope**” was created to help those with ASD, as well as Police Officers, in the event of a motor vehicle stop or traffic accident.

The primary goal is to aid these drivers with document organization and to educate them about what to do during a motor vehicle stop or accident. Please review the **Blue Envelope** and the **Emergency Contact Form** with those under your care and create a plan customized to their needs. The Cape Elizabeth Police Department can help with the plan. The **Blue Envelope** also helps the Police Officer by identifying those with ASD and guides them on how to better interact with them. While our Police Officers currently receive training on how to recognize those with ASD, the **Blue Envelope will** buttress that training.

Please place color photocopies of the **driver’s license, vehicle registration card, and insurance card** in the **Blue Envelope**. The **Emergency Contact Form** is located on the reverse side of this form. Please list several emergency contacts to ensure that someone is reachable. Be sure to place a **Blue Envelope** in each vehicle that is operated by the person with ASD.

To help us to better interact with the person with ASD, please review these steps with them:

- Keep your hands on the steering wheel until otherwise directed, even if the officer is not at your car.
- Remember, 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, say: “I have a **“Blue Envelope”**”
- Answer the officer’s questions and ask the officer before moving any parts of your body.
- When the officer tells you, slowly get the **Blue Envelope** that has your **driver’s license, registration and insurance card** and hand the **Blue Envelope** to the officer.
- The officer will go back to their car to check your information. Please wait for the officer until he/she comes back.
- When the officer comes back to your car they will explain the situation and will tell you when to leave.

This program is brought to you by **the Cape Elizabeth Police Department**

325 Ocean House Road

Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

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Paul W. Fenton

Chief of Police

Brent A. Sinclair

Captain

BLUE ENVELOPE

I have Autism:

I have been medically diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). My medical condition may impair my ability to communicate with others. As a result, I may have difficulty understanding your directions and I may not respond to your questions. I may also display physical signs of being uncomfortable if you touch me or move too close to me. Please do not interpret my behavior as refusal to cooperate. I am not intentionally defying your instructions.

If I exhibit behaviors which impede our interaction, I request that you contact the person(s) noted below on my behalf. They will confirm my diagnosis and may provide information that you may need about my identity and can offer assistance in the best way to interact with me.

Print Name

Contact Name

Contact Number

Contact Name

Contact Number

Contact Name

Contact Number