



WHAT IS PROJECT GUARDIAN?



Enhancing Safety and Community Connection for Vulnerable Populations.

Keeping our community safe starts with understanding.

Project Guardian is a free, voluntary, confidential program that bridges the gap between law enforcement and individuals with autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and dementia, ensuring safety, compassion, and connection.



HOW IT WORKS



When someone is enrolled in the program, emergency responders obtain basic information, a current digital photograph, emergency contact information, and other information that may help when encountering the registered individual.

Registered families will be mailed or given stickers to display in their home and vehicle windows to alert officers of a potential person with a disability or difference. Registration must be renewed annually.

A program designed to protect vulnerable populations.



WHY IT'S IMPORTANT



Often, first responders do not know if individuals they encounter have a disability, difference, or condition like dementia, as there are no obvious physical signs. For example, flashing lights on an emergency vehicle might cause a person with autism to become frightened or act out, or a person with dementia to become disoriented or agitated. Officers may not understand why some individuals avoid eye contact, clench their fists, flap their hands, or struggle to communicate. What may seem like a simple interaction could become a traumatic situation for a person with a disability or dementia, creating confusion for both the individual and first responders.

For more info:

- <http://lcautism.org>
- <https://www.cityofcentralia.com/558/Project-Guardian>
- <https://www.ci.chehalis.wa.us/police/page/project-guardian>
- <https://lewiscountywa.gov/offices/sheriff/>

