



SHERIFF'S OFFICE, COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, N.Y.
ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
PROJECT LIFESAVER BUREAU
100 CENTER DRIVE
RIVERHEAD, N.Y. 11901
(631) 852-3003



ERROL D. TOULON, JR., Ed.D.
SHERIFF

PROJECT LIFESAVER: PROTECTING OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver program is a countywide emergency response locator service capable of finding individuals diagnosed with cognitive impairments which may cause them to wander and become lost.

Project Lifesaver combines proven radio technology and specially trained Deputy Sheriff search and rescue personnel from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office. Project Lifesaver clients wear a personalized one ounce battery operated transmitter bracelet which emits a tracking signal every second, 24 hours a day. Transmitters are approximately the size of a quarter and each transmitter has its own unique frequency.



When a caregiver notifies the Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Line (631-852-2791) that a Project Lifesaver client has wandered, specially trained Deputy Sheriff Project Lifesaver personnel are immediately dispatched, and while in route to the client's last reported location, activates a vehicle mounted locator tracking system and begins searching. A hand-held mobile locator tracking unit is used for search areas inaccessible by vehicle. The transmitter signal can be tracked on the ground or in the air from distances of up to several miles.

PROJECT LIFESAVER SEARCHES

The client's transmitter, also known as the Personal Locator Unit (P.L.U.), emits a tracking signal every second. This tracking signal allows responders to triangulate the client's exact location and safely return them to their home or care facility, reducing caregiver concern, stress and worry.

Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver personnel are specially trained, not only in search and rescue with the use of the electronic tracking equipment, but also in the methods necessary to communicate with a person who has a cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism, Down Syndrome, Intellectual Disability, etc.

PROJECT LIFESAVER SAVES LIVES

Search times have been reduced from hours and/or days to minutes. In over 3,300 searches, Project Lifesaver International reports that there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths. As of October 2018, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office's average search time for missing Project Lifesaver clients is under 11 minutes.



HOW TO ENROLL IN PROJECT LIFESAVER

Enrollment applications can be requested by calling (631) 852-3003 or by email at: lifesaver@suffolkcountyny.gov.

CRITERIA USED TO DETERMINE CLIENT ELIGIBILITY

- Clients must be a resident of Suffolk County.
- Persons with a history of wandering related to cognitive impairments such as Autism, Alzheimer's, Dementia, Down Syndrome, Intellectual Disability, etc., should be considered for enrollment in Project Lifesaver.
- Clients must have the informed consent of their legal guardian and/or caregiver
- Caregivers/legal guardians must comply with their obligations and responsibilities in testing the transmitter on a daily basis making certain the battery is operational
- Caregivers/legal guardians must understand and agree that the locating technology used in the Project Lifesaver program is not intended as a substitute for responsible childcare or caregiver practices.
- The client is under constant supervision and monitoring by a responsible person:
 - to prevent or reduce the risk of wandering
 - to ensure immediate reporting if the client is missing.

Clients, legal guardians and/or caregivers agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office and the County of Suffolk, their directors, officers, deputies, employees, agents, advisors and members from and against all losses, liabilities, costs, damages, and expenses which may be sustained by an indemnified party arising from a negligent act or omission of the client, legal guardians and/or caregivers with the respect to their voluntary participation in the Project Lifesaver program.



CLIENT EQUIPMENT

The following equipment is provided to the caregiver upon enrollment into the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver program:

- 1 Transmitter (available in white, blue, red, green and yellow)
- 6 Vinyl Straps (available in white, blue, and red)
- 6 Batteries
- 1 Battery Tester

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

The purchase of the One-Year Kit (1 Transmitter, 1 Battery Tester, 6 batteries, and 6 vinyl straps) costs approximately \$325.00 plus shipping and handling charges. The purchase of the equipment is coordinated through the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office once the client's application is approved.

MAINTENANCE

The wristband must be firmly fastened around the client's wrist or ankle and not removed. If removed, the client's location cannot be determined. The transmitter's battery must be checked daily by a caregiver using the provided battery tester to ensure that the transmitter is emitting a signal. Batteries and wristbands can be requested through the Sheriff's Office at (631) 852-3003, or by email: lifesaver@suffolkcountyny.gov. Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver personnel will demonstrate and explain proper wristband and transmitter maintenance to caregivers upon initial client enrollment.

PROJECT LIFESAVER ENDORSEMENTS

Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center

National Aging In Place Council-Long Island Chapter

Nassau/Suffolk Autism Society of America

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Missing Persons Clearinghouse

The National Sheriff's Association

The New York State Sheriff's Association

The Pilot Clubs of Greater Long Island, Babylon, and Sayville

Specialized Autism Support & Information (SASI Long Island)

Average search time for a missing person (nationally)

9 hours

for people who want to be found.

Average search time for a Project Lifesaver client is

30 minutes



Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

PROJECT LIFESAVER

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long does it take to enroll in Project Lifesaver?

Applications can be requested by calling (631) 852-3003 or via email at: lifesaver@suffolkcountyny.gov. After an application is received, a Deputy or Officer from the Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Bureau will then meet with the potential client/caregiver/legal guardian making certain that the residence is safe for the potential client and to assist with the necessary paperwork. Once you have the necessary equipment (estimated equipment shipping time is 1-2 weeks from Project Lifesaver International), the program starts immediately.

My loved one currently does not have a caregiver. Can I still enroll them in Project Lifesaver?

No, the Project Lifesaver program requires a Custodial Caregiver to check the transmitter's battery each day as well as notify the Sheriff's Office Communications Bureau in the event that a client has wandered and cannot be located.

What happens if a client wanders?

Caregivers must notify the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Emergency Response Line by calling (631) 852-2791 and dial 911.

Is the transmitter waterproof?

Yes, clients can shower and swim while wearing the transmitter.

Is the client's Project Lifesaver equipment covered by insurance as a medical necessity?

Check with your insurance company. If necessary, the Sheriff's Office will provide a "Letter of Medical Necessity" to the insurance company indicating that the client is enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program.

What happens if the equipment malfunctions or the transmitter is lost?

Call the Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Emergency Response Line immediately.

Are there other Project Lifesaver programs?

Project Lifesaver began in the Chesapeake County Sheriff's Office in 1999. As of November 2017, Project Lifesaver is now in over 1,400 law enforcement agencies across North America. Currently, Suffolk County Sheriff Errol D. Toulon, Jr. serves as Project Lifesaver International's "New York State Coordinator". Project Lifesaver International's State Coordinators are responsible for training and certifying any law enforcement agency that wishes to launch a Project Lifesaver program for their jurisdiction.

Is there a guarantee that a person wearing a Project Lifesaver transmitter will be located?

Client searches involve different variables and incidents are often unpredictable. Project Lifesaver International reports over 3,300 successful search and rescues internationally since 1999. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Office feels Project Lifesaver equipment and established procedures increases the likelihood of "Bringing Your Loved Ones Home" safely.

For more information, please visit the Project Lifesaver page on our website at: www.suffolksheriff.com