

ATTORNEY GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DIRECTIVE 2005-3

**ESTABLISHING A STATEWIDE TRAINING POLICY
ON THE SAFE RETURN PROGRAM TO RECOVER LOST
INDIVIDUALS WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS**

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease affects approximately four million Americans diagnosed with the disease, and countless family members and caregivers dedicated to caring for these individuals; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that gradually destroys a person's memory and ability to learn, reason, make judgments, communicate and carry out daily activities. As Alzheimer's progresses, individuals may also experience changes in personality and behavior, such as anxiety, suspiciousness or agitation, as well as delusions or hallucinations; and

WHEREAS, 60% of the four million Americans diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease will become disoriented and wander away from home, law enforcement personnel will come into contact with individuals with Alzheimer's Disease during the course of their duty;

WHEREAS, it is particularly important to find a person with Alzheimer's disease within the first 24 hours to ensure safety and survival; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey legislature enacted N.J.S.A. 52:17B-77.7-77.10 in order to insure all law enforcement in New Jersey are trained on the utilization of the Safe Return program to facilitate the safe recovery of those who wander off and become lost; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:17B-77.7-77.10, the Attorney General must establish a training policy for all State Police and local law enforcement personnel on the utilization of the Safe Return Program in order to protect the health and welfare of those state residents diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PETER C. HARVEY, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Criminal Justice Act of 1970, N.J.S.A. 52: 17B-97 et seq. and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:17B-77.7-77.10 do hereby **DIRECT** the following:

1. Training Requirement on the Safe Return Program

All State Police and local law enforcement personnel shall receive

instruction on the Safe Return Program. The Alzheimer's Association Safe Return Program is a nationwide identification, support and enrollment program working at the community level which assists in the safe return of individuals with Alzheimer's or a related dementia who wander and become lost. When a memory-impaired person wanders away from home or an institution and the 800 number is called, the safe return operator will work with the missing person's care giver and police to gather critical information. If necessary, an area representative of Safe Return can issue an Alert at any time of day to numerous agencies, including hospitals and shelters. Safe Return enables the police officer to easily identify a person with Alzheimer's disease, and contact their caregiver. It also includes a photo database and important information which enables the police to better respond to the missing person report.

The required instruction shall include the following information:

- (1) methods for identifying persons with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders;
- (2) techniques on communicating with persons with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders;
- (3) procedures for caring for persons with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders who become lost and disoriented; and
- (4) the procedures the Safe Return Program uses in locating lost individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders.

2. Development of Training Curricula and Materials

a. Approved training material is attached and to be disseminated with this Law Enforcement Directive. The approved training material includes a written self instruction program to be completed by all law enforcement officers in the State of New Jersey.

b. The Division of Criminal Justice may develop additional training aids in the future on the Safe Return Program and Alzheimer's Disease. Any additional training aids so developed will be disseminated to all law enforcement agencies in the State of New Jersey.

b. Within 90 days of the effective date of this Law Enforcement Directive, any law enforcement agency in the State of New Jersey, including any State Police and County Prosecutor's Office, may develop its own training instruction on the Safe Return Program and Alzheimer's disease. Such training instruction program must include the information required under section one of this Law Enforcement Directive as further detailed in the curricula developed by the Division of Criminal Justice, and can include, but not be limited to, a

training seminar on the subject, and/or a written curricula and/or video presentation.

3. Confirmation of In-Service Training

a. Every police officer operating under the authority of the laws of New Jersey, regardless of rank or duty assignment, shall participate in a training program within one year of the effective date of this Law Enforcement Directive. The Chief Executive of every police agency in the State shall also designate any civilian employees (dispatchers, etc.) who should be included in this training program. A person shall be deemed to have participated in the training program by viewing an entire video presentation covering the areas required in section one of this Law Enforcement Directive, or attending a seminar covering the areas required by section one of this Law Enforcement Directive, or completing self instruction of the complete curricula created by the Division of Criminal Justice or other law enforcement agency authorized to develop such program under section 2(b).

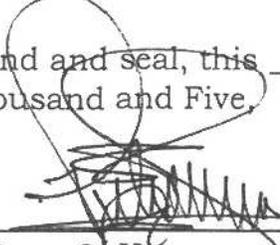
b. Any police officer who attended a police academy subject to the jurisdiction of the Police Training Commission on or after January 2002, and successfully completed Performance Objective 3.10.12, shall have satisfied this training requirement. The Police Training Commission shall keep Performance Objective 3.10.12 a requirement for pre-service training in order to comply with the provisions of this legislative mandate. Further, the State Police Academy should include instruction in accordance with section one of this Law Enforcement Directive in all pre-service Academy classes beginning a year from the effective date of this Law Enforcement Directive.

c. Every law enforcement chief executive shall ensure that each law enforcement officer under his jurisdiction has received the required training within one year of the date of this Law Enforcement Directive. Each local and county law enforcement agency shall record each individual police officer's completion of this requirement, and maintain such record in its regular course of business. The record should be readily available to the County Prosecutor's Office or Attorney General's Office, upon request. All State Police Officers shall report to the Superintendent, or his designee, the satisfaction of this requirement. The Superintendent shall ensure that each state police officer has received the required training within one year of the effective date of this Law Enforcement Directive. Such record should be maintained and available to the Attorney General's Office, upon request.

4. Effective Date

This Law Enforcement Directive shall take effect immediately, and shall remain in full force and effect, unless and until repealed, amended or superseded by order of the Attorney General.

Given under my hand and seal, this 3RD day of October,
in the year Two Thousand and Five,



Peter C. Harvey
Attorney General

Attest:



Vaughn L. McKoy
Director, Division of Criminal Justice