



## BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM

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.

The primary goal is to aid these drivers with document organization and to educate them about what to do during a motor vehicle stop. Please review the Blue Envelope and the Emergency Contact Card with those under your care and create a plan customized to their needs. Your 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. Police Officers currently receive training on how to recognize those with ASD, the Blue Envelope will buttress that training.

Please place a color photocopy of the driver's license along with the vehicle registration card and insurance card in the Blue Envelope. The Emergency Contact Card is located in the provided envelope. Please list an emergency contact 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 documents and hand the Blue Envelope to the officer.
- The officer will go back to their car to check your information, and you will need to wait for the officer until he/she comes back.
- When the officer comes back to your car, they will explain why you were stopped and will tell you when to leave.

This program is brought to you by The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office.

Thank you,

**Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes**  
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office  
401 Grand Street  
Paterson, NJ 07505

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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 noted on the back on my behalf; he/she will confirm my diagnosis and provide information you may need about my identity or assistance in way to interact with me.



**I HAVE AUTISM**

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Their Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

My Local Police Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: \_\_\_\_\_



# 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



**POLICE OFFICER SPECTRUM AWARENESS GUIDE ON BACK OF ENVELOPE**

### IMPORTANT MOTOR VEHICLE PAPERS

- DRIVER'S LICENSE (COPY)
- VEHICLE REGISTRATION
- VEHICLE INSURANCE CARD
- CONTACT CARD

#### 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 contained in the envelope