



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GENERAL ORDER

Project Lifesaver



Date Issued 08/15/17 Date Effective 08/15/17 Revision Number Revision Date Page
1 of 2

ISSUING AUTHORITY – SHERIFF CARL E. DuBOIS
DISTRIBUTION – ALL DEPUTY SHERIFFS
& OFFICE PERSONNEL

I. POLICY

The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide a timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander or may become lost due to illness or disability. It shall be the policy of the Orange County Sheriff's Office to provide Project Lifesaver services to the citizens of Orange County who are found to be eligible for the program and have requested the service.

II. OBJECTIVE

To provide guidelines for the utilization of Project Lifesaver, creating a partnership between the community, the families of those affected and the Public Safety personnel, in an effort to identify and locate individuals who become lost.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. Project Lifesaver emphasizes relationships between specially trained Sheriff's personnel and the people who may wander, before the need may arise for a rescue. A Deputy assigned to Project Lifesaver Team will conduct an initial interview at Orange County Sheriff's Office Headquarters to enroll the client. At that time the personalized wristband will be applied and family members and caregivers will be provided a comprehensive overview of the program. Deputies assigned to the Project Lifesaver Team shall be trained in communicating with a person who has Alzheimer's, Autism, or a similar disease, and will schedule bi-monthly home visits, or as needed to inspect and maintain the equipment and ensure its operability.
- B. If an individual enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program wanders off, the family or care provider will notify the 911 Center, who will dispatch the closest available patrol unit to the scene, and notify the Orange County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Search Team On-Call personnel.
- C. The Sheriff's Office Search Team shall respond and commence a search utilizing the Project Lifesaver search equipment. The Sheriff's Office can deploy two

receivers, which are capable of identifying and locating lost individuals who are wearing the wristband transmitter.

- D.** The Project Lifesaver Search Team shall be responsible for coordinating the rescue efforts with responding Public Safety personnel, and requesting additional resources should they be required (i.e. Fire Department(s), EMS, Mobile Mental Health, etc.).
- E.** The enrolled person's biographical, medical and historical data will be available to the responding units through the Project Lifesaver website which is available to the Orange County E-911 Center and all Orange County Law Enforcement agencies. www.projectlifesaver.org
- F.** The initial responding police unit, regardless of agency, shall be responsible for completing an incident report. Responding OCSO Project Lifesaver Team Deputies shall complete supplemental reports
- G.** Notification of any Project Lifesaver search will be made to Project Lifesaver International by a member of the OCSO Project Lifesaver Team.

IV. TRAINING

- A.** Agency staff selected to participate on the Project Lifesaver Team will attend a mandatory two day initial regional training provided by DCJS who upon completion will receive from DCJS the County's start up supply of Project Lifesaver equipment and bracelets. Upon successful completion of training, Deputies having been certified as Electronic Search Specialists by a Project Lifesaver instructor, will be certified to teach additional staff within the Orange County Sheriff's Office.
- B.** In-service training for OCSO Project Lifesaver Team members shall be conducted periodically to maintain familiarity with Project Lifesaver equipment and procedures.