

# Iowa Endangered Person Advisory Checklist

The Endangered Person Advisory (EPA) is a system designed to disseminate information about a missing/ endangered person to law enforcement and the media. The Endangered Person Advisory is a **voluntary** partnership between Iowa law enforcement, broadcasters, media and organizations representing Iowa citizens and visitors. The Endangered Person Advisory informs the public about a missing/endangered person. Only Iowa law enforcement can initiate an Endangered Person Advisory. In order for an Endangered Person Advisory to be initiated, **an investigation must be made into the missing person's whereabouts immediately, and without delay.**

- *There is no waiting period required to initiate a missing person report.*
- *Issuing an Endangered Person Advisory is not designed to replace, circumvent, prevent or prohibit local law enforcement from initiating internal procedures or processes they have in place to assist with public notifications.*
- *If the missing person is under age 18, does the situation fit the criteria for an AMBER Alert? If they are over age 18, proceed with activation procedures for an EPA:*

Law Enforcement must determine if all the criteria for an Endangered Person Advisory exist:

- o Is the person missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances? **Entry into NCIC via the IOWA System is a mandatory requirement to proceed further.**
- o Is the person believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment, weather conditions or in the company of a potentially dangerous person or some other factor that may put the person in danger of serious bodily injury or death; and
- o Is there enough information such as a current photograph/image of the person that issuing an Endangered Person Advisory could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person?
- o Law enforcement must immediately enter information about the missing person into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) via the I.O.W.A. System.
- o Investigation into this matter will be done without delay.
- o Iowa law enforcement is notified with a state wide "Attempt To Locate"/Endangered Person entry including a statewide voice radio broadcast on the statewide interoperability channel known as LEA. The LEA broadcast can also be more regionally targeted if necessary.
- o The missing person information posts on the Department of Public Safety's missing person's website at <http://www.iowaonline.state.ia.us/mpic/>.
- o Broadcasters and the media may be notified by Law Enforcement about the Endangered Person Advisories, or –
- o The initiating law enforcement entity will appoint a Public Information Officer (PIO) who can coordinate with the DPS PIO Office to help coordinate the release of information. DPS can help with regional or statewide distribution of information to the media. Call 515.725.6196 or 515.323.4360 (DSM State Radio) to request DPS PIO assistance.

Law Enforcement can cancel an EPA:

- o NCIC record is canceled.
- o The initiating law enforcement entity's Public Information Officer (PIO) can coordinate with the DPS PIO to cancel the advisory.
- o L/E will notify DPS when the person has been located.
- o The EPA is listed indefinitely with the DPS Missing Person Information Clearing House until the NCIC record is canceled.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The Emergency Alert System (EAS) will not be part of the Endangered Person Advisory.
- Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) dynamic message signs will not be a normal part of Endangered Person Advisory; however, the DOT may authorize their use if deemed necessary. That decision will be determined within the Iowa DOT.
- Sign up for e-mail notifications from the DPS website. <https://dpsemailnotify.iowa.gov/>
- If your Law Enforcement entity utilizes “A Child is Missing”, you are responsible for the activation and cancellation.

### **WANDERING ADULTS- IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS:**

- “They go until they get stuck”
- Appear to lack ability to turn around
- Subject oriented to the past, degree of disease sends them back in time
- Subject usually found in a creek or drainage and /or caught in briars/bushes (63%)
- Coexisting medical problems that limit mobility are common
- Has previous history of wandering (72%)
- May cross or depart from roads (67%)
- Usually (89%) found within one mile of Initial Planning Point, half found within 0.5 miles
- Subject usually found a short distance from road (50% within 33 yards)
- Subject may attempt to travel to former residence or favorite place
- Subject will not leave verifiable clues
- Will not cry out for help (1%) or respond to shouts (only 1% response rate)
- Succumbs to the environment (hypothermia, drowning, dehydration)

### **MENTALLY HANDICAPPED- IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS**

- May be children or adults
- Some may have the ability to travel considerable distance
- Reactions to searchers may be unpredictable – interview family or caregivers
- Attracted to water
- Over ½ are found in structures (57%)

### **AUTISTIC SUBJECT- IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS**

- May be children or adults
- Prefer being alone, will often leave group or group setting
- No real fears or danger, may have under sensitivity to pain
- Generally non-responsive to verbal cues; may act as if deaf and can't be expected to respond to searcher's shouts
- In urban areas, 25% found within 0.2 miles, 50% found within 0.4 miles and 75% found within 0.9 miles with a max zone of 7.7 miles

### **RESOURCE LIST**

- DPS Missing Persons (during business hours) 515.725.6036
- Alzheimer's Association (24/7 helpline) 1.800.272.3900 [www.alz.org/safetycenter](http://www.alz.org/safetycenter)

This checklist is meant to provide a framework of actions, considerations and activities that can assist in issuing an Endangered Person Advisory.