



Live 24-hour emergency response for wandering and medical emergencies



safe return®

alzheimer's association®

# WANDERING: WHO'S AT RISK?

Six in 10 people with dementia will wander. People can wander or become confused about their location at any stage of Alzheimer's disease, even the early stage. If an individual with Alzheimer's or another dementia wanders or becomes lost, **MedicAlert + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return®** can help. Call **888.572.8566** if you know someone who:

- » Returns from a regular walk or drive later than usual.
- » Forgets how to get to familiar places.
- » Talks about fulfilling former obligations, such as going to work.
- » Tries or wants to "go home" even when at home.
- » Is restless, paces or makes repetitive movements.
- » Has difficulty locating familiar places, such as the bathroom.
- » Asks the whereabouts of past friends and family.
- » Acts as if doing a hobby or chore, but nothing gets done.

For more risk factors, visit **alz.org/safety**.

MedicAlert® + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return® is a 24-hour nationwide emergency response service for individuals with Alzheimer's or another dementia who wander or have a medical emergency.

- » Call the Alzheimer's Association® at **800.272.3900** (TTY: 866.403.3073) to learn more.
- » Call **888.572.8566** or visit **alz.org/safety** to enroll.

# COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT WANDERING

## “I watch my wife very closely.”

It only takes a moment for someone to wander away or get lost. This is as true in your home as it is at the mall or grocery store. No one can be watched every second. Even the most diligent caregiver has to sleep, bathe or talk on the phone.

## “My mother has never wandered.”

If a person with dementia is mobile, wandering can happen at any time. And it can happen repeatedly.

## “We explained to my dad why he shouldn’t go out alone.”

He may not remember that he has been told not to go out by himself. Plus, as the disease progresses, he will increasingly lose his ability for good judgment and logical thinking.

## “My mother is in a nursing home.”

Your mother could easily wander away from a facility — even a locked unit. Wandering can also occur when you’ve taken your mother home for a family visit.

## “When my husband wandered, the police found him.”

A person with dementia may not be able to provide his name or address to the person who finds him. Even if he has been returned by police once, you may not be so lucky next time.



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**safe return**<sup>®</sup>

alzheimer's  association<sup>®</sup>

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