



Make Alzheimer's a Memory™

Silver Alert Webinar



WANDERING AND THE SILVER ALERT



WANDERING?



6 out of 10 people with dementia will wander at some point

WHAT IS THE SILVER ALERT LAW?

- Update Silver Alert program took effect July 1, 2021
- Advocacy Priority for Alzheimer's Tennessee advocates!

SILVER ALERT

- Part 2

WHY DO PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA WANDER?

- They get disoriented while driving or walking
- Cannot problem solve around a detour or road construction
- They are looking for someone or something familiar.
- They are trying to get to a place they used to go, like work or school, or following old routines
- They are going to a previous home
- They are trying to escape a noisy or chaotic environment, with too much stimulation.
- They may be bored from a lack of stimulation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS THAT MY LOVED ONE MAY WANDER?

- They may pace or appear to be anxious and agitated.
- They express concern about going somewhere like work, to pick up children from school, or to the store.
- They search for something believed to be lost
- Excessive interest in doors and windows
- They ask about or look for people who may no longer be living.



WANDERING PREVENTION

- Provide plenty of activity during the day to avoid boredom, and increase tiredness.
- Walk with them and attempt to redirect them to something else that they are able to do.
- Disguise doors with curtains, or put “Do Not Enter” or stop signs on doors.
- Use door chimes or bells on all doors
- Use door knob guards
- Use coded door locks
- Don't leave them home alone

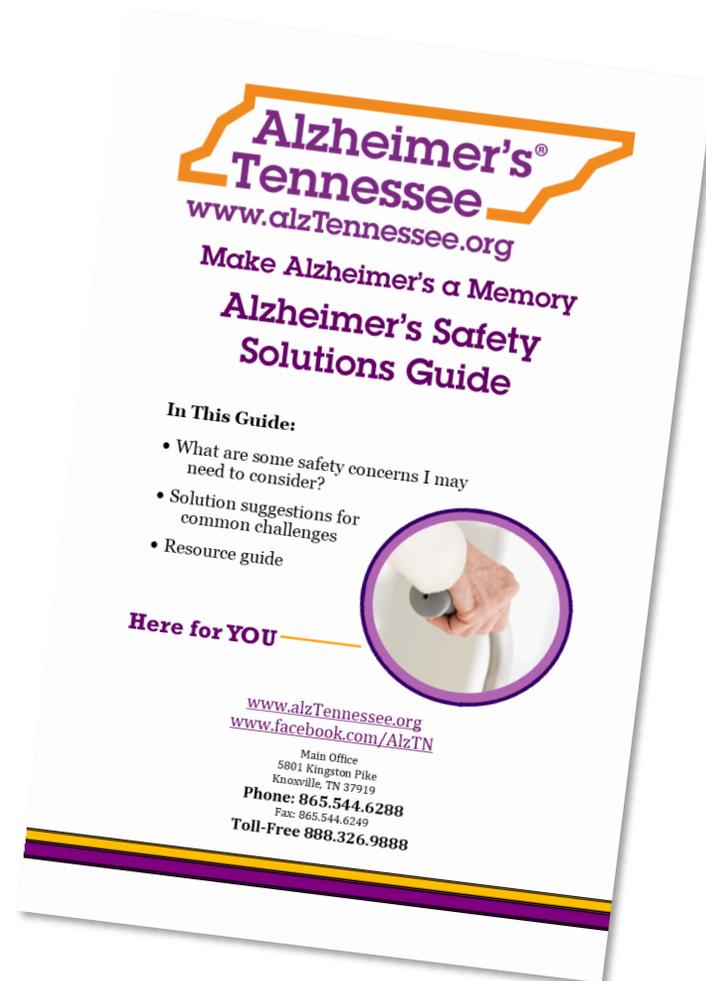


MAKING THE HOME AND PERSON SAFER

- Install wifi locks on doors
- Install wifi cameras inside and outside
- Install wifi doorbells
- Use GPS devices like Tiles on dog leashes, keys, purses and wallets
- Install locator apps like Life 360 on smart phones
- Complete your Silver Alert Kit



ALZHEIMER'S TENNESSEE SAFETY CATALOG

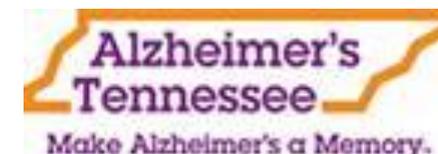
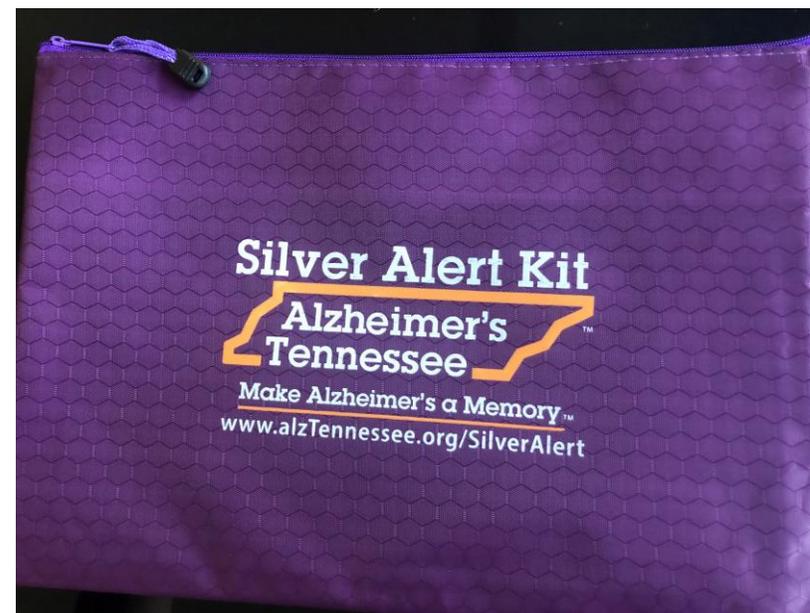


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- <https://www.alztennessee.org/help/home-safety-guide>

ALZHEIMER'S TENNESSEE SILVER ALERT KIT

Kit Contents include:

- Current photos
- Vehicle information
- A personal profile form
- Information about what to do if a loved one goes missing
- A list of emergency phone numbers and contacts
- And much more



SAMPLE CONTENTS



Alzheimer's Tennessee
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Silver Alert Kit Checklist

When a loved one with dementia or Alzheimer's disease wanders, it's helpful to be prepared. **Complete the Alzheimer's Tennessee materials inside this bag now to create your Silver Alert Kit** so that you are ready in case of a wandering situation or emergency.

1. Complete enclosed **Personal Profile Form** (also available online to be downloaded, filled out, printed and saved on your personal devices at www.alzTennessee.org/SilverAlert)
2. Gather pictures of the person (face, profile, and full-length photo). Pictures should be recent, within the last 6 months. A video would also be helpful. Collect a scent example, such as the pillowcase they use, or an unwashed item of clothing. Seal and store in Ziploc-type bag.
3. Create a list of emergency phone numbers (including agencies to contact, as well as family, neighbors and friends).
4. Review included **Wandering Warning Signs** brochure to better understand why individuals wander and how to help prevent wandering.
5. Follow the recommendation on the **Wandering Preparation & Response** Flyer to prepare for wandering situations.
6. Study **Safety Catalog** (at www.alzTennessee.org/SafetyCatalog) for more ways to prevent and prepare for wandering.
7. Consider enrolling in the MedicAlert Found program at www.alzTennessee.org/Found
8. Complete and gather all materials, including **When a Loved One is Missing Q&A**, make copies and have them readily available. Add one set of materials to the included **purple bag** to have as a "travel kit" for when on-the-go.

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www.alzTennessee.org
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Wandering Warning Signs

Wandering can happen any time, day or night. 6 out of 10 people with dementia will wander during the course of their disease.

Why do people living with dementia wander?

- They get disoriented while driving or walking and cannot figure out how to get home.
- They are looking for someone or something familiar.
- They are trying to get to a place they used to go, like work or school or following a routine.
- They are trying to escape a noisy or chaotic environment, with too much stimulation.
- They may be bored from a lack of stimulation.

People with dementia may also wander after a sudden change, for example, a move to a new house or assisted living community.

Warning signs that your loved one may wander:

- They may pace or appear to be anxious and agitated.
- They may become concerned about going somewhere they work to pick up children from school or to the store.
- They search for something believed to be lost.
- They ask about or look for people who may no longer be living.

Tips to prevent wandering

- Provide plenty of activity during the day to avoid boredom, and increase tiredness.
- Walk with them and attempt to redirect them to something else that they are able to do.
- Debug doors with curtains, or put "Do Not Enter" or stop signs on doors.
- Keep track of your loved one's specific triggers and avoid these triggers as much as possible.

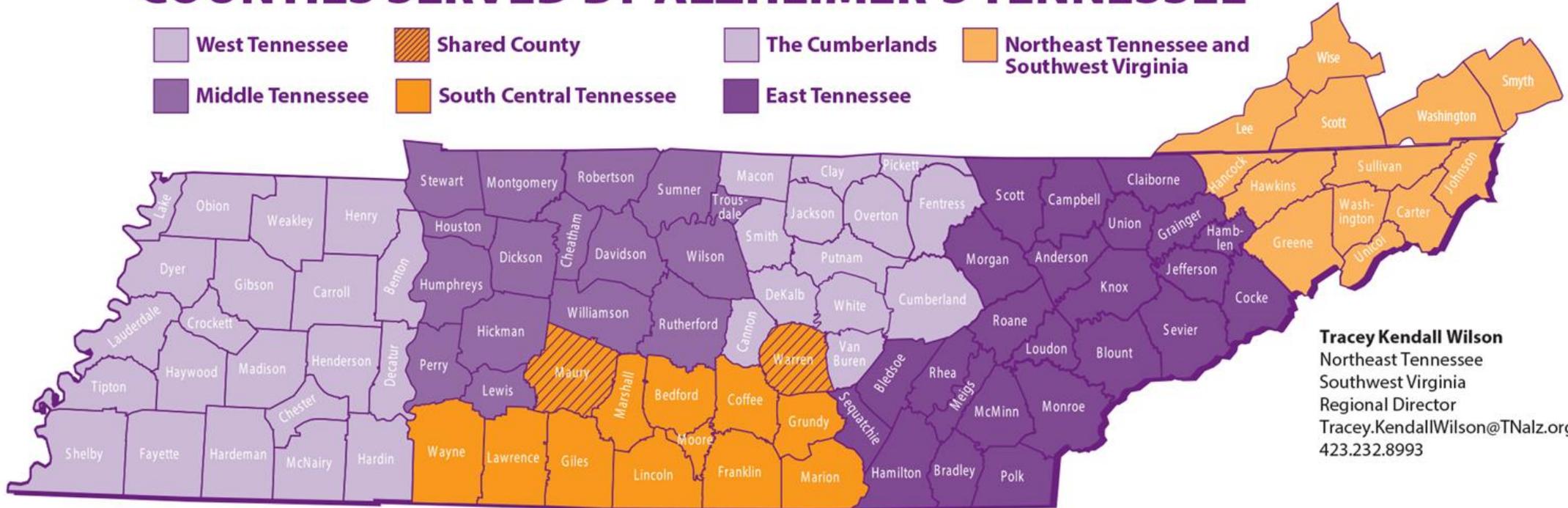
Learn more about Wandering and Prevention at alzTennessee.org/AlzAlert

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www.alzTennessee.org/SilverAlert

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