



2017 Silver Search Annual Report

alzheimer's association®

AARP



ILETSB

Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board



2017 Annual Report

I. INTRODUCTION

The Silver Search program was created by the passage of the Public Act 099-0322 (20 ILCS 2605/2605-485(e)(1). The program is designed to provide increased public awareness and a toolkit for law enforcement when someone 21 years of age or older who is believed to have Alzheimer's disease, other related dementia, or other dementia-like cognitive impairment is reported missing. These types of missing person cases are referred to as Silver Search.

On January 1, 2016, the Silver Search program began by creating a Silver Search Task Force. The Task Force's mission is to create criteria for a toolkit and public awareness program as well as establish the use of technology as a means to locate persons with Alzheimer's or dementia who go missing. The Task Force shall monitor law enforcement training on how to react appropriately and effectively with individuals who suffer from Alzheimer's disease, other dementia, or other dementia-like cognitive impairment. The Silver Search Task Force is chaired by the Department of State Police Silver Search Program Coordinator. Members of the Silver Search Task Force include: Illinois State Police, Illinois Alzheimer's Association, Department of Aging, American Association of Retired Persons, Illinois Broadcasters Association, Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Department of Transportation, Illinois Lottery, Illinois Tollway Authority, Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, and Illinois Secretary of State.



The Illinois State Police Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS) is the information system linking Illinois police agencies, other state agencies, and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). The Intergovernmental Missing Child Recovery Act of 1984 and the National Child Search Assistance Act of 1990 mandates immediate entry of all reports of missing persons into LEADS, which are automatically entered into the nationwide NCIC database.

The Endangered Missing Person Advisory is the mechanism for local law enforcement to request that notices be sent out to the public when a person that is high risk goes missing. A high risk missing person can be any person who is believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment, weather conditions, in the company of a potentially dangerous person or some other factor that may expose the person to possible harm or injury.

II. ILLINOIS CLEARINGHOUSE FOR MISSING PERSONS

An effective resource in solving missing person cases, the Clearinghouse is a focal point for the coordination of efforts by law enforcement, social services, education and prevention programs, as well as legislative advocacy and the dissemination of missing person's photographs. Its responsibilities include:

- collecting and maintaining computerized data and investigating information on missing persons and unidentified bodies in the state;
- coordinating with and providing assistance to state and local public and private nonprofit agencies, including those of other states and the federal government, in the location and recovery of missing persons and the identification of unidentified persons and bodies;
- establishing and operating a statewide, toll-free telephone line for reports of missing persons and reports of sightings of missing persons;
- providing a uniform missing person reporting and investigation protocol for law enforcement agencies within the state;
- publishing a directory of missing persons for dissemination to state and local public and private nonprofit agencies and the public;
- compiling statistics on the missing children cases handled and resolved by the Clearinghouse each year, as well as summaries of the circumstances of each case;
- assisting in the training of law enforcement and other professionals about missing and unidentified persons and bodies;
- operating a clearinghouse of information about methods of locating and recovering missing persons;
- operating a resource center of information about the prevention of those with Alzheimer's and dementia from wandering; and
- developing and implementing a coordinated program for a statewide advisory system when a high risk person goes missing.

III. FISCAL

No fiscal liability to the state of Illinois. All activities are performed under the structure of the Department of State Police.

IV. SILVER SEARCH TASK FORCE

The Silver Search Task Force had its initial meeting on August 3, 2016, in Springfield Illinois. This meeting established the goals of the Task Force and a timeline for implementation of policies and procedures to guide the Task Force in its mission to enhance awareness of people with Alzheimer’s and dementia who go missing. Each Task Force member in attendance was asked to evaluate what their agency or association could do to better reach the goals of the group. Technology and training were two main areas of focus.

On February 9, 2017, the Illinois Silver Search Task Force had its second meeting. At this meeting, training dates were established and a toolkit was reviewed. The Task force identified technology enhancements to the current advisory system. These enhancements include a dedicated website for Silver Search information and updates, uses of Illinois Department of Transportation digital message boards when an Endangered Missing Person goes missing while in a vehicle, and the use of the digital lottery display terminals of retail establishments to display the advisories.

The Silver Search Task force met again on May 25, 2017, in Springfield. The focus of the meeting was to update the group on the progress made toward technology upgrades, identification of funding sources, social media, and finalizing a toolkit for law enforcement.

V. SPECIAL ACTIVITY

In 2017 the Illinois Silver Search Task Force will utilize its partnership with the Illinois Lottery and its provider Northstar Lottery. As a partner, the Illinois Lottery utilizes its digital lottery terminal inside of retail establishments to display all active Silver Search advisories.



The partnerships do not stop at lottery terminals. The Endangered Missing Person Advisory System will utilize digital message boards over Illinois interstates and tollways. This partnership has led to increased awareness for drivers of Illinois roadways to identify vehicle descriptions and license plates involved in high risk missing person cases.



In collaboration with the Department of Aging, the Silver Search Coordinator provided training to caregivers, guardians, and welfare workers who work regularly with the elderly. These training sessions outline what to do if someone in your care goes missing, and how to be prepared in case it should happen. This training will continue at various locations throughout 2017-2018.

The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board will continue to train law enforcement throughout Illinois on how to interact with people with Alzheimer's and dementia and what to do if they go missing. Refresher courses are offered for law enforcement officers throughout their careers. These courses will utilize the toolkit created by the Task Force in its curriculum.

The Illinois Broadcasters Association along with the Illinois Alzheimer's Association are working on a public awareness campaign to inform the public about the Silver Search program and how families, caregivers, and first responders can get more information when dealing with people with Alzheimer's and dementia and the risks they face if they go missing.

In May 2017, Illinois marked its three year anniversary of its partnership with Alert GPS. The technology provides a more efficient and effective warning system to law enforcement, media, and the public. The Law Enforcement Alerting Portal (L.E.A.P) delivers major efficiencies to the Illinois Endangered Missing Person Advisory system. It provides a quicker more robust alerting technology that enables the issuance of Missing Endangered Advisories through a variety of sources including texts, emails, faxes, and RSS feeds.

**STATE POLICE
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FOR MISSING PERSONS**

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