

Lost Person : Checklists for Prevention and Immediate Response

In a crisis, your IQ drops. You will not remember the "10 steps" you read once. 

Hesitation costs time. A checklist bridges the gap between panic and action. It tells you exactly what to do next so you don't have to think. This manual is your external brain. By following it, you ensure no stone is left unturned and every resource is deployed instantly.

Mission 1: Proactive Preparedness (Do This Today)

Identification & Tracking

For a Child: Equip with wearable ID (Shoe tag, laminated card).

For an Elderly Loved One: Equip with MedicAlert bracelet and iron-on clothing labels .

Implement Tracking:

Bluetooth (AirTag): For close-range crowds.

GPS Tracker (AngelSense): For high-risk wandering.

Location Sharing: Enabled on smartphones.

Create a "Go-Kit"

Digital Profile: Save clear Headshot + Full Body photo + Medical Info on your phone .

Physical Contact List: Printed numbers for local police and support network.

Education & Environment

Practice Drills (Kids): "Freeze and Find" and "Safe Stranger" .

Secure Home (Elderly): Install door chimes and high locks.

Community Net: Distribute "Neighbor Cards" with photo/contact info.

Mission 2: Immediate Action (The Moment They Are Missing)

The First 15 Minutes

[] **STOP:** Breathe. Think. Observe. Plan.

[] **If at Home:** Search Top-to-Bottom. Check closets, under beds, and **Hazards (Pools)** first .

[] **If in Public:** Stay put. Yell name. Alert security for "Code Adam" .

The First Hour

[] **Call 911 Immediately:** No waiting period .

[] **Provide Intel:** Name, Description, Clothing, **Medical/Behavioral Risks**.

[] **Share Photo:** State "I have a photo ready to share".

[] **Deploy Support:** Call Tier 1 contact to come assist.

The Ongoing Search

[] **Establish Home Base:** One person stays at "last seen" spot/home.

[] **Digital Blast:** Post "MISSING" alert to local groups with **Call 911** instruction .

[] **Coordinate:** Give photo to police. Follow lead detective's instructions .

Expanding the Net

[] **Call Hospitals:** Check ERs for "John/Jane Doe".

[] **Check Transit:** Contact transit police.

[] **Check History:** Volunteers search old homes/workplaces (dementia) or friends' houses (kids).

The Scenario Planner (Contingencies)

Murphy's Law Variation 1: "I don't have a current photo."

- **The Trap:** The only photos you have are from last year or have filters/masks.

- **The Fix: The Birthday Rule.** Every birthday (or 6 months for seniors), take a clear, plain-background headshot specifically for safety purposes.

Murphy's Law Variation 2: "My neighbors aren't home to help search."

- **The Trap:** Relying on a small circle.
- **The Fix: Social Media Velocity.** This is why the "Digital Blast" is critical. It mobilizes the wider community instantly when your immediate circle is unavailable.