



## Adult at Risk of Going Missing Guidance

Families and communities need to be confident that when an adult with care and support needs goes missing everything will be done to ensure they do not go missing again, and that those responsible for finding them will work to reduce the likelihood that they will come to harm whilst away.

The 'Adult at risk of going missing form' is intended to save the family and police time by ensuring the information required by the police is completed in advance and readily available in the event of a missing incident.

The form is aimed mainly at adults with mental ill health, learning disabilities and those with dementia who may be at heightened risk of going missing.

The form is available on the council website to download and print and can be linked to from any website.

It is the responsibility of the individual and their family / carer to complete and keep the form in a safe place. If they want the information stored by the police they should be advised to contact Herts Constabulary on 01707 354 000 and ask to speak to the Missing Person's Unit.

### **IN THE EVENT OF SOMEONE GOING MISSING**

The Police must be informed if it is believed there is immediate risk to the missing individual's safety and wellbeing. The police will then become the authority in charge of the investigation.

**The police are entitled to expect family and carers, as well as care staff in care homes, to undertake reasonable actions to try and establish the whereabouts of the individual before reporting.**

It is important that the families and carers of the individual are provided with the appropriate level of support and information throughout the process, and signposted to relevant charity or organisations, such as the charity 'Missing People'.

Once the individual has been found or returns home it may be appropriate to refer them to Adult Care Services.

If there is evidence to suggest that a crime has happened to, or been committed by the individual whilst missing, the case should be referred to Hertfordshire Constabulary.

Links to useful websites:

- Hertfordshire Constabulary: [www.herts.police.uk](http://www.herts.police.uk)
- Missing People: [www.missingpeople.org.uk](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk)
- Carer's in Hertfordshire: [www.carersinherts.org.uk](http://www.carersinherts.org.uk)