



Hunterdon County Police Chiefs Association

P.O. Box 758 • Whitehouse Station, New Jersey 08889

Blue Envelope Program

The Hunterdon County Police Chiefs Association has developed a Blue Envelope Program, modeled on a program first developed and distributed in the State of Connecticut. The purpose of the Blue Envelope is to improve the interaction between a driver with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and a Police Officer on a traffic stop. The Blue Envelope provides written information and guidance on enhancing effective communication between police officers and people with ASD.

The primary goal of the Blue Envelope is to assist drivers with ASD with document organization and to help them understand what to do on a motor vehicle stop. The envelope's instructions warn the driver that the officer might have a radio and flashing lights on their car, and they also direct the driver to keep his or her hands on the steering wheel until they receive further instructions. The directions detail the process of events that should occur during the stop and how the driver should respond.

Secondly, the Blue Envelope provides Police Officers with the means to quickly identify an operator of a motor vehicle who has ASD and helps guide Police Officers with the interaction. The police officer's section of the envelope explains some behaviors the driver might exhibit, including repetitive body movements and signs of high anxiety. Police are also instructed to allow the driver extra time to respond, to use the most simplistic language possible and to clearly tell the driver when he or she can leave the scene.

The Blue Envelopes are available for pick up at each of the Police Departments, Sheriff's Office, Prosecutor's Office, and State Police Barracks within Hunterdon County. Additionally, the Blue Envelopes have been distributed to the driver's education programs at each of the Hunterdon County High Schools.

If presented with a Blue Envelope on a traffic stop it should contain a copy of the driver's license, vehicle registration and vehicle insurance card. Additionally, there should be a document that explains their medical diagnosis and provides the contact information of another person that can verify that detail.

DRIVER IS ON THE AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DRIVER IS VERBAL ___ DRIVER IS NONVERBAL ___

"BLUE ENVELOPE" IMPORTANT VEHICLE PAPERS!

- Keep your hands on the steering wheel until otherwise directed, even if the officer is not at your car.
- The officer may shine a flashlight in your car, may have a radio, and may have flashing lights on their car.
- When the officer gets to your car let them know you have a blue envelope, answer the officer's questions, and ask the officer before moving any parts of your body.

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POLICE OFFICER SPECTRUM AWARENESS GUIDE ON BACK FLAP OF ENVELOPE

POLICE OFFICER:

- Driver may exhibit signs of anxiety due to bright lights and noises like your radio.
- Driver may display repetitive body movements or fidgeting and may have unusual eye contact.
- Speak clearly and use the most simplistic explanations possible, limit unnecessary details.
- Allow driver extra time to respond, driver may need more time to formulate a response.
- Clearly tell the driver when the stop is over and they can leave.
- If the driver becomes upset consider contacting the person listed on the contact card.

IMPORTANT VEHICLE PAPERS! Contents:

- Driver's License
- Vehicle Registration
- Current Insurance Card
- Emergency Contact

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