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**Criteria for Activation**

Only law enforcement agencies may request the issuance of the Maryland Silver Alert Plan. Law enforcement agencies making such requests must first determine that the following criteria exist:

- The missing person suffers a cognitive impairment, including a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease or dementia, and
- The missing person’s disappearance poses a credible threat to the health and safety of the individual, and
- The missing person is traveling in a vehicle and there is enough descriptive information about the missing person and vehicle for law enforcement to issue an alert, and
- The investigating agency has already activated a local or regional alert by contacting media outlets in their jurisdiction, and
- The missing person has been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

**Procedures for Activation**

Upon confirmation of the above criteria, the Duty Officer will contact the Maryland State Police Headquarters Duty Officer and request that the Maryland Silver Alert be activated.

Headquarters Duty Officer Telephone Number - 410-486-3101 or  
800-525-5555 (in State only)

Upon receiving a Silver Alert request, the Headquarters Duty Officer will contact the on-call Silver Alert coordinator. The designated Silver Alert coordinator will immediately contact the requesting Agency and will discuss the request, specifically the existence of the above criteria, to determine if an Alert will be issued.

After a request has been received and confirmed to meet all criteria for activation, the Alert coordinator will:

- A. Contact the Maryland Emergency Management Administration’s Emergency Operations Center and request an EMnet Alert to all of Maryland or to the Specific geographic location involved. This will include law enforcement agencies, media outlets, and 911 centers.
- B. Contact the State Highway Administration’s Statewide Operations Center (SOC) and request Alert information be displayed on the DMS signs under SOC control in the geographic location of the incident. These signs will display, at a minimum in the order listed:

1. Adult Silver Alert
2. A description of the vehicle involved
3. A request to call 911 with information

The SOC may also broadcast Alert information on the Highway Advisory Radio (HAR). This information will include details of the Alert and conclude with a statement that the person(s) who may locate the missing vulnerable adult should take no action other than to call the local law enforcement agency as soon as possible and provide them with the location.

- C. Contact the MSP Headquarters Duty Officer and request a METRS message, with the Alert information, be sent to all Maryland law enforcement and surrounding states.
- D. Contact the MSP Information Technology, Mobile Systems Unit and request a System-wide alert message be sent on the CapWIN and Delta Plus networks.

#### **Resources to Assist Law Enforcement**

In cases where a Silver Alert is not issued due to the criteria not being met, the Maryland State Police may be able to provide other assistance in the terms of search and rescue resources, to include canine, aviation, and search teams. These resources may be requested and activated through established procedures by contacting the Maryland State Police Headquarters Duty Officer.

There are other non-law enforcement resources available, such as *A Child is Missing, Inc.* This nonprofit organization offers free assistance to law enforcement in the recovery of missing persons. The organization provides immediate neighborhood telephone alerts to the surrounding community, similar to reverse 911 systems. *A Child is Missing* may be contacted at (888) 875-2246, [www.achildismissing.org](http://www.achildismissing.org).