



**FINDING Your Way**

*For people with dementia,  
every step counts.*

## When a person with dementia goes missing

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Take a deep breath and try to stay as calm as you can even though it is not easy. You are not alone. Others are there to help you. Going through this checklist will help you bring the person with dementia home quickly and safely.

### Call the police – 911 – search is an emergency – DO NOT DELAY!

1. Immediately tell police that the person has dementia.
2. Try to get a sense of how long since you last saw the person.
3. Give police the information you have assembled in the “[Identification Kit](#)” – including a recent photograph.
4. Let the police know about any medical conditions or medications the person is taking.
5. Tell the police where you think the person may go.
6. Let them know if the person is registered with any registry program such as [MedicAlert® Safely Home®](#), [Project Lifesaver®](#) or has any [identification or locating devices](#) on them.

### Mobilize support

1. Make sure someone stays at home in case the person returns on their own.
2. Alert friends, family and neighbours that the person is missing.
3. If the person has a vehicle, tell police the vehicle information (licence plate number, car model and make, and colour).



For local Alzheimer Society contact information, call 2-1-1  
Visit: [FindingYourWayOntario.ca](http://FindingYourWayOntario.ca)

*Société Alzheimer Society*

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4. If credit cards may be used, talk with the police about informing the credit card companies that this person is missing and may use the cards. Tracking use of credit cards may help in locating the person.

## Do a quick search

1. Look inside the house:
  - ✓ bedrooms, including closets and under the bed
  - ✓ bathroom(s)
  - ✓ basement, including hidden spaces that are easy to get into
  - ✓ garage, if this is attached or near the house
2. See if any items such as luggage, car keys or credit cards are missing. These may provide clues as to their whereabouts.
3. Look outside around your house – only do this if you have an enclosed yard. If you live in a rural area, do not search on your own. You may endanger yourself and complicate the search for police.

*Adapted from materials developed by Alzheimer Society British Columbia.*