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Sally Ellertson  
Public Information Officer  
141 West Renfro  
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261  
817-426-9622  
F: 817-426-9390  
[sellertson@burlesontx.com](mailto:sellertson@burlesontx.com)  
[www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com)

Residents with special needs family members can have peace of mind during times of crisis thanks to the Burleson Police Department's Guardian Program.

The Guardian Program is a voluntary, and free, registry for those who may be unable to communicate basic personal information due to a diagnosed medical disorder, or are prone to wander away or run away from guardians, home, or school due to a diagnosed medical disorder. Special needs include Autism, Alzheimer's, dementia, or some other mental/intellectual disability.

At registration, a completed application and photo with all of the required medical information is voluntarily submitted by the guardians of a special needs child or adult. You can find that form on the City website, <http://bit.ly/GuardianProgramapp>.

How does the Guardian Program make a difference? If a special needs child or adult goes missing and is reported by the parent or guardian, information about physical appearance, the most likely places where he or she would go to, as well as triggers, stimulants, and de-escalation techniques will be available to every police officer in the area who is looking for the missing person. If the individual has not been reported and is incapable of effectively communicating his/her name to an officer, officers may use the individual's physical descriptors to search applicable registry photos, allowing officers to make a more timely identification.

Eligibility for the Burleson Police Department's Guardian Program is based on the following:

- Participant or guardian lives within the city limits of Burleson
- Participant attends school within the Burleson Police Department jurisdiction

You will be required to update the Guardian Program registration information, and picture, every year. If there are changes to your contact information, address, or vehicle during that year, make those changes immediately.

For more information about the Guardian Program, call Community Resource Officer David Wardlaw at 817-426-9958 or email [dwardlaw@burlesontx.com](mailto:dwardlaw@burlesontx.com).