

# Monmouth County Chiefs Of Police Association



**Michael P. Kelly**  
President

## Autism Spectrum Disorder **Blue Envelope** Program

The Monmouth County Police Chiefs Association has adopted a Blue Envelope Program, modeled on a program first developed and distributed in Hunterdon County as well as 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. The envelope is a place for the driver to keep a copy of their license, registration, and insurance card, along with a document that explains their medical diagnosis and provides the contact information of another person who can verify that detail.

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 will be distributed to each of the Police Departments, Sheriff's Department, Prosecutor's Office, and State Police Barracks within Monmouth County and will be available for people to pick up after April 5, 2023. Additionally, the Blue Envelopes are being distributed to the driver's education programs at each of the Monmouth County High Schools.

## **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**