

Autism Alert Card

Why do criminal justice professionals need to know about autism?

For people on the autism spectrum, incidents involving criminal justice professionals can occur because of the misinterpretation of certain behaviours as threatening or non co-operative.

- People with autism are often very vulnerable and can be easily influenced.
- They may be the unwitting accomplice in crimes.
- They may not respond appropriately when questioned as they may have difficulty in understanding what people are saying.
- They may become extremely agitated and find it difficult to modulate their voice.
- Their anxiety may stop them processing information and following instructions.
- They may not be able to make eye-contact.
- They may be sensitive to sound, touch or smell.

If you or someone you know would like a card, request an application form by contacting:

- **Autism Alert Wiltshire**
www.autismalertwilts.com
info@autismalertwilts.com
- **The National Autistic Society**
0845 070 4004
www.nas.org.uk

Please note that we do require a copy of your diagnosis letter or GP letter before we can issue a card. Proof of a diagnosis can be a copy of any of these documents:

- Diagnosis letter
- Statement of Special Educational Needs
- letter from a professional e.g. GP/ social worker
- medical report or assessment.

Although the cards are free, there is a £1.00 fee for any replacement cards.



Autism Alert Card

Produced in partnership with Wiltshire Police



How to apply for your **FREE** alert card

If you or a person you know has a condition on the autism spectrum you can apply for this **FREE** alert card



Autism Alert Card

Do you or a person you know have autism (including Asperger syndrome)?

If so, you may have already been in a position where you have had to explain the nature of autism and its associated behaviours to someone you don't know.

Our credit card sized **autism alert card** can be carried at all times and can be shown if you find yourself in a situation where you cannot easily give an explanation about the condition.

The card is supported by Wiltshire Police and it will help them and other emergency services to identify that they are dealing with someone who has autism.

If you or someone you know would like a **FREE** card you can request an application form by emailing: info@autismalertwilts.com



Alternatively, you can download an application form by visiting www.autismalertwilts.com

Your card will then be sent to you as soon as possible. Please note that we do require a copy of your diagnosis letter or GP letter before we can issue a card.

The card gives some information about the condition, the card holders name and space for two emergency contact details.

I have an Autism Spectrum Condition


This means:

- I may have social communication difficulties.
- I may be extremely anxious in some situations.
- My behaviour may appear confusing or threatening.
- I will need the support of an appropriate adult/intermediary.

My name is: Card no.

Please contact: Tel:

Please contact: Tel:

 NAS Helpline: 0845 070 4004 (Mon-Fri: 10am - 4pm) www.autism.org.uk

With the launch of this card, Wiltshire Police will be provided with information, advice and training that will raise awareness and understanding of autism and give practical advice for real-life situations.

What is autism?

One person in 110 has autism. It is a lifelong developmental condition that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It is also a spectrum condition which means that, while all people with autism share

certain difficulties, their condition will affect them in different ways.

Asperger syndrome is a form of autism. Many people with Asperger syndrome are of average or above average intelligence. Some people with autism experience over or under sensitivity to sounds, touch, taste, smells, light or colours.

People with autism can become extremely anxious in unexpected or unfamiliar situations. Anyone with autism should have access to an appropriate adult or intermediary when in contact with the police or emergency services.

This card will alert the police and other emergency services that the person carrying the card has a condition that may require special attention.

Why do emergency services need to know about autism?

People with autism can become extremely anxious and their behaviour may appear unusual or threatening to people who don't understand the condition. The sound of sirens or being touched may add to their anxiety. They may find it difficult to follow instructions. They often react differently to pain and may be in great pain without showing any outward signs.