



WARREN COUNTY POLICE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
321 GREENWICH STREET
STEWARTSVILLE, NJ 08886

Good afternoon, today the Warren County Police Chiefs Association is announcing the implementation of our Blue Envelope Program. The Blue Envelope Program is for individual drivers who have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The envelopes will contain the driver's insurance card, registration and driver license, so they can hand it to the officer during a traffic stop.

In 2020 police departments in Connecticut established this same program and in September of 2022, the Hunterdon County Police Chiefs Association were the first to implement this program in New Jersey.

The goal is to avoid misunderstandings between the officer and the driver. We ask that drivers tell officers if they keep the envelope in either their glove box, visor or console. Once they hand over the envelope, the driver and officer can follow tips and instructions on how to communicate with each other.

The instructions warn the driver that the officer might have a radio and flashing lights on their car, which can be disruptive for people with autism. The envelope also directs the driver to keep their hands on the steering wheel — even if the officer is not by their car. The envelope also instructs police to allow the driver extra time to respond, to simplify their requests, and to clearly tell the driver when they may leave.

The purpose of the Blue Envelope Program is to improve the interaction between a driver with ASD and a Police Officer on a traffic stop. All officers within Warren County will be trained on the Blue Envelope Program. Our association is also working with Senator Doug Steinhardt and Assemblyman John Dimaio in an attempt to have this program as a possible state wide initiative.



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The Blue Envelopes have been distributed to each of the Police Departments, Sheriff Department, Prosecutors Office, and State Police Barracks within Warren County and will be available for people to pick up after March 3rd.

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 SIDE 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
- Current Insurance Card
- Vehicle Registration
- Emergency Contact Info