

Portage Township Trustee Brendan Clancy and the Portage Township Autism Action Coalition (PTAAC) are proud to sponsor the Blue Envelope Program in Porter County, Indiana.

The goal of the Blue Envelope Program is simple - to provide an extra line of communication and safety between a driver on the Autism Spectrum and law enforcement.

It involves a specially designed envelope which holds a photocopy of a driver's license, registration, insurance card, and a contact card.

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The envelope features communication guidelines on its exterior for both the driver and the officer. The information allows an officer to adapt his/her approach when interaction with a driver who has autism.

The objectives of the Blue Envelope Program are:

- **Enhancing Understanding:** By providing officers with immediate, accessible information about autism, the Blue Envelope Program aims to promote empathy and patience, leading to more positive interactions.
- **Reducing Anxiety:** Traffic stops can be particularly stressful for individuals with autism. The Blue Envelope serves as a visual cue that helps officers adjust their communication style, thereby reducing anxiety for the driver.
- **Streamlining Communication:** The guidelines on the envelope offer practical tips for officers, making it easier for them to communicate effectively with individuals with autism, even in high-stress situations like traffic stops.
- **Encouraging Preparedness:** For individuals with autism and their families, the Blue Envelope is a tool that encourages preparedness.

By keeping their important documents in the envelope and understanding how to present it during a traffic stop, drivers can feel more confident and secure.

Effective April 1, 2025, Blue Envelope Program materials will be available at:

- **Portage Township Trustee's office**, 3590 Willowcreek Road, Suite B, Portage.
- **Portage Branch of the BMV**, 5916, U.S. 6, Portage.
- **Valparaiso Branch of the BMV**, 1361 Morthland Dr., Valparaiso.
- **Burns Harbor Police Department**, 1240 W. North Boo Road, Burns Harbor.
- **Chesterton Police Department**, 790 Broadway, Chesterton.
- **Hebron Police Department**, 611 N. Main St., Hebron.
- **Kouts Police Department**, 210 S. Main St., Kouts.
- **Portage Police Department**, 6260 Central Ave., Portage.
- **Porter County Sheriff's Department**, 2755 Ind. 49, Valparaiso.
- **Porter Police Department**, 50 Francis St, Porter.
- **Valparaiso Police Department**, 355 S. Washington St., Valparaiso.