



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 29, 2012

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell, *DM/Kit* Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: H.B. 246 [Yellow Dot Medical Information Alert Program]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.B. 246 which directs the Division of Public Health to create a "Yellow Dot" medical alert program. The Division would make available "yellow dot folders" with information that individuals could keep in their glove compartment. The individual would choose the scope of information to include. The "menu" includes name, address, photo, emergency contact phone number, medical history, allergies, prescriptions and dosage, and physician name and phone number. The individual can then attach a yellow dot sticker in the lower left corner of the rear window of the vehicle to alert emergency responders that the information of the driver and/or frequent passengers is in the glove compartment. Two amendments have been added to the bill to clarify that the scope of information listed in the folder is completely voluntary and individually determined by the participant and that responders are exempt from liability in the absence of gross negligence.

The attached articles describe the operation of this program in other states. For example, the Paoli Hospital in Pennsylvania, a trauma center, adopted a similar program in September, 2011. The May 24, 2011 USA Today article indicates that the first "yellow dot" program was adopted in Connecticut in 2002 and has spread to counties in at least eight (8) other states (Kansas; Illinois; Iowa; Minnesota; Massachusetts; Virginia; Alabama; and New York). First responders have generally endorsed the program which provides quick access to medical information. The photo helps link the information to the person in need of treatment. It is recommended that participants fill in information in pencil for updating as medications, physician information, etc. change. Social Security numbers and dates of birth are omitted to reduce prospects for identity theft.

SCPD endorses the proposed legislation. It is an entirely voluntary program which individuals can tailor to their needs. It could be a "life saver" in many circumstances. For example, if an individual needs a blood transfusion, the blood type would typically be listed in the folder. If presenting

symptoms could be correlated with multiple causes (e.g. drugs or seizure), the folder would help a responder determine that the symptoms are more likely the result of an underlying seizure disorder. If a person is allergic to a particular medicine, the responders would know not to administer that medicine which could otherwise result in adverse reaction or death. In the context of a traumatic brain injury caused by an accident, a quick response is critical to lessening the effects of the injury.

SCPD is also recommending an amendment. Title 21 Del.C. §4309 bars driving a vehicle with any “nontransparent material” on the rear window of a vehicle. The yellow dot could technically violate that statute. The sponsors could consult DMV and consider the following options: 1) ensuring that the yellow dots will be “transparent”; 2) amending the new §9706 to clarify that the yellow dot is an authorized exception to §4309; or 3) amending §4309 to clarify that the yellow dot is an exception to the general ban. According to the October 10, 2010 Huntsville Times article, there is no uniform yellow dot (“each participating state has a different logo”). The article contains an Alabama logo which includes the following text: “fire and rescue, emergency medical services, senior groups, and law enforcement”.

Finally, the sponsors may wish to consider adding organ donation as an option to the “menu” of information listed.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position or observations on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Jack A. Markell
Dr. Karyl Rattay
Ms. Jennifer Cohan
Ms. Deborah Gottschalk
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.
Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

hb 246 yellow dot 3-2912



Main Line Health
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Paoli Hospital

Yellow Dot Program Launched at Paoli's Trauma Center Anniversary

Paoli Hospital recently celebrated the first anniversary of its Regional Trauma Center. Barbara Tachovsky, President, Paoli Hospital and Jack Lynch, President & CEO, Main Line Health congratulated the Paoli Hospital trauma team of physicians, nurses and other caregivers while praising their dedication in delivering outstanding trauma services to surrounding communities.

At the Sept. 26 celebration, a new outreach program — Yellow Dot — was announced, which will speed appropriate medical care at the scene of serious auto accidents.

The Yellow Dot Program, which has been successfully implemented in several states, ensures that Emergency Medical Services personnel arriving on the scene of auto accidents can quickly gain access to patients' important medical information. This is the first such program in Pennsylvania.

Through the free program, participants receive a yellow dot to place on their car's rear window to alert Chester County emergency services personnel to look for a corresponding yellow folder in the glove box. That folder should contain recent photographs of the automobile's owner and frequent passengers as well as information on their medical conditions, prescriptions and other vital details.

To request a Yellow Dot Program packet, call the Paoli Hospital Regional Trauma Center's Injury Prevention and Outreach Department at 484-565-8328.



Paoli President Barbara Tachovsky (far right) watches Josh Bonjo (left), a former Paoli Trauma Center patient, and his parents be the first to sign up for PA's first Yellow Dot program, which alerts EMS to medical information in autos.

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Yellow Dot car program speeds help to crash victims

Updated 5/24/2011 10:02 AM |

By Larry Copeland, USA TODAY

A national program that immediately provides first responders with vital information about automobile crash victims is spreading rapidly, fueled by the growing wave of maturing Baby Boomers.



Bob Farley, for USA TODAY Norman Pondick displays the Yellow Dot sticker on his vehicle's left rear window. The sticker alerted first responders to Pondick's information in the

glove box. [Enlarge](#)

By Bob Farley, for USA TODAY

Norman Pondick displays the Yellow Dot sticker on his vehicle's left rear window. The sticker alerted first responders to Pondick's information in the glove box.

The Yellow Dot program is designed to help crash victims, especially seniors, communicate with rescuers during the crucial "golden hour," the first 60 minutes

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corresponding yellow folder in the glove box. That folder contains a photograph, their medical conditions, prescriptions and other vital information.

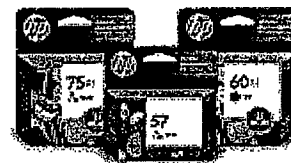
In Alabama, the program started in Etowah County in 2009; by June, it will be operating in 27 counties.

"There's a lot of interest from two different groups," says Lora Weaver, program coordinator for the Northeast Alabama Traffic Safety Office, who is adding two or three counties a month to the program.

"The residents of the state ... realize the importance of it, particularly someone with a lot of medical issues. The second group is the first responders, because they know when they arrive, if the person is unable to

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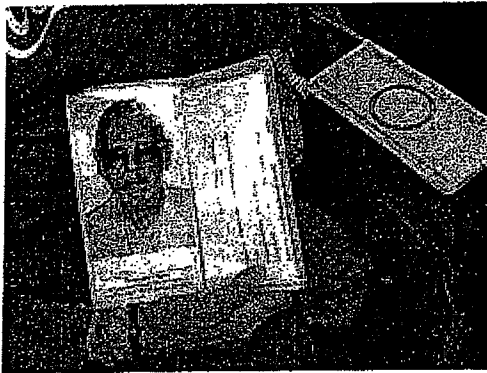
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communicate, they know they can go to the glove compartment and get the information they need, and they can do it immediately without wasting a lot of time."



By Bob Farley, for USA TODAY

A Yellow Dot folder contains Norman Pondick's emergency contacts and health information.

About 30,000 to 40,000 Alabamians are enrolled.

The nation's first Yellow Dot program began in Connecticut in 2002. Yellow Dot programs, with slight variations from state to state, are in counties scattered across at least eight other states: Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Virginia, Alabama and New York. Georgia is among other states considering the program.

"It is very nice to see innovative programs to address the unique risks associated with older Americans and car crashes," says Peter Kissinger, president and CEO of AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. "Since older individuals tend to have more medical conditions, are on more medications and are generally more fragile, this sounds like a well-justified program, especially in light of the growing number of older Americans."

"It's a promising approach," says Jonathan

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Traci Pondick, 47, of Rainbow City, Ala., swears by it.

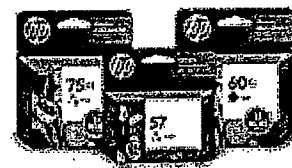
Her husband Marc's parents, Norman and Ping Pondick of Southside, Ala., enrolled in Yellow Dot soon after it began in Etowah County. Several months ago, Norman Pondick, 83, was driving alone in his pickup when he swerved to avoid hitting a car that had stopped in front of him. He left the road and hit a tree, lacerating his head.

"The first responders saw the sticker and immediately pulled the folder out," says Traci Pondick. "They called Marc. They were worried about the cut on his head."

Norman Pondick was air-lifted to University of Alabama-Birmingham hospital in Jefferson

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County. The family drove there.

"When we went back to see him, the nurse held up the Yellow Dot folder and said, 'Where did you get this?' Yellow Dot was not in Jefferson County at that time. I told her about it. She said, 'This is the best thing I've ever seen.'"

Norman Pondick soon recovered. Traci Pondick got her mother to enroll.

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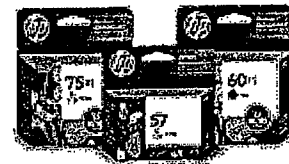
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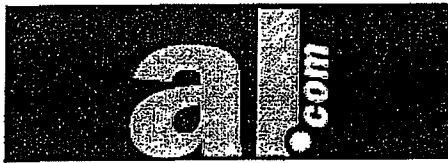
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Yellow Dot program will help save lives

Published: Friday, October 08, 2010, 7:09 AM Updated: Friday, October 08, 2010, 7:17 AM



By Victoria Cumbow, The Huntsville Times

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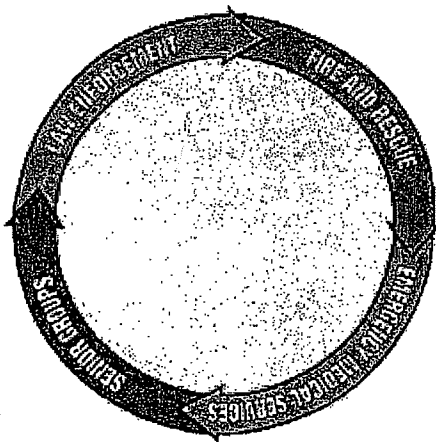
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A picture of Alabama's Yellow Dot sticker.

HUNTSVILLE, AL -- Emergency officials are hoping a simple yellow dot on a car window can save lives in Madison County.

The Yellow Dot program is free to residents and comes with a yellow dot sticker to be placed in the bottom left corner of a vehicle's rear window.

That sticker will notify emergency responders of a yellow folder in the glove compartment, which will contain vital information if the driver is unable

to communicate with first-responders.

The program is sponsored by local emergency agencies, the Madison County Sheriff's Office and the Northeast Alabama Traffic Safety Office. It's new to Madison County and will give emergency responders important information in the case of a devastating automobile accident or emergency situation.

"This can be a life-saving tool for us," said Don Webster, HEMSI's chief operating officer. "We will immediately train all our employees, paramedics and EMTs to look for the yellow dot."

Madison County residents can begin signing up for the program on Thursday at several places throughout the county, including the Madison County Sheriff's Office on Wheeler Avenue and the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center on Drake Avenue.

Inside the yellow folder is a photo of anyone who regularly drives the vehicle, along with their name and emergency contact phone numbers.

There's also a place to include any medical condition, allergies, medications and blood type.

Nowhere in the folder is the patient's birth date or Social Security number. The information included is only what would be necessary to help save a person's life, said Lora Weaver, program coordinator for the Northeast Alabama Traffic Safety Office.

Woody-Anderson Ford is a local sponsor for the program and has picked up much of the cost to help implement the program in Madison County - the 14th Alabama county to adopt the Yellow Dot program.

Alabama is one of nine states currently participating in a similar program. Each participating state has a different logo, but all include a yellow dot as the sticker's focal point, Weaver said.

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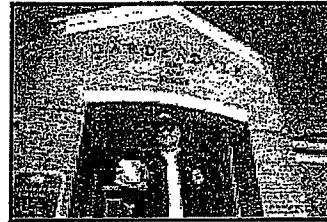
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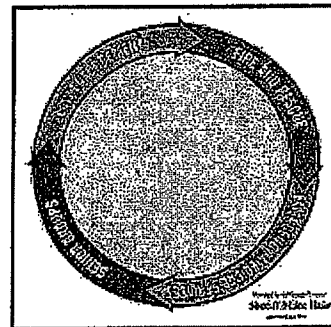
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Not Just a Dot



Gardendale Fire Marshal Rick Smith encourages residents, especially senior citizens, to participate in the Yellow Dot program, which provides information to emergency responders when car crash or medical victims are unable to talk.



Yellow dot.jpg

(<http://www.njeffersonnews.com/local/x1613327870/Not-Just-a-Dot>)

Officials: Program will save lives

By Melanie Patterson

North Jefferson News (<http://www.njeffersonnews.com>)

NORTH JEFFERSON — Some local fire departments are taking part in a program that could help save lives in the event of emergencies.

The Gardendale, Warrior and Graysville fire departments are all enrolling people in the "Yellow Dot" program, which kicked off Thursday in the county and is sponsored by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. Jefferson is the sixteenth county in Alabama to participate.

Participants fill out a sheet that contains medical, emergency contact, prescription, allergy and other information. The sheet goes into a small yellow binder that fits into a glove compartment.

A photo of the individual is attached so emergency responders can make sure the information goes with the person they are treating.

Participants then place a Yellow Dot sticker onto their back windshield, in the lower left-hand corner, to let emergency personnel know to look in the glove compartment for important information.

The program can help save lives during the critical 'golden hour' by improving communication at a time when accident victims may be unable to communicate for themselves, according to Gardendale Fire Marshall Rick Smith.

He said first responders can make more informed decisions if they know a victim's medical condition, recent surgeries, medications and other information.

If the victim goes to a hospital, the Yellow Dot packet goes with him so hospital personnel will also have the information on hand.

Yellow Dot participants can write their hospital preference on the form, but Smith said that does not guarantee transport to that hospital. He said it depends on the types of injuries sustained and the distance from the requested hospital.

Participants are asked to write the information in pencil and to update it every six months, when Daylight Saving Time ends and begins.

"This is a good program," Smith said. "We will do whatever we can to get people signed up."

The program is geared toward seniors, but people of any age can participate. Smith said it is a good idea for parents to fill out sheets on themselves and their children.

Seniors who no longer drive can still participate by filling out the information and keeping the packet in a purse or in the glove compartment of someone who drives them places.

"There are a lot of different ways this program can work," Smith said. It can even be useful if emergency personnel arrive at a house where the victim is unable to talk. If responders see a Yellow Dot sticker on a vehicle, they can get the information they need.


According to Smith, there is no danger of identity theft happening through Yellow Dot, because Social Security numbers and dates of birth are not included.

The Yellow Dot program is funded by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Division. It is administered by the Northeast Alabama Traffic Safety Office.

Packets are available at the Gardendale and Graysville fire departments.

Warrior Fire Chief Clay Neely said the Warrior Fire Department would have its complete packets by the end of next week, but information sheets are available at the fire department and at Warrior City Hall.

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