

## FAQs

### What is the Special Needs Registry?

The Special Needs Registry is a way for the Department of Emergency Services to receive information about residents who have special needs that would be helpful for emergency responders to know.

### How will the Special Needs Registry be used?

The information will be programmed to appear on the 9-1-1 Operator's screen when an emergency call is made from your home. This will allow dispatchers to alert emergency responders that there may be a unique situation in your home involving a person with special needs. It will also be used for the purpose of emergency planning.

### Who is eligible for the Special Needs Registry?

Any Allegheny County resident who may require additional assistance due to special needs during a police, fire or medical emergency may submit information to the registry. In the event that the person with special needs is unable to submit the information on their own, a person who is authorized to act on their behalf may do so (guardian, power of attorney, etc.).



## Special Needs Registry



**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
400 NORTH LEXINGTON STREET  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15208  
PHONE (412) 473-2550 • FAX (412) 473-2623 •  
[WWW.ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US](http://WWW.ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US)

## Special Needs Registry

The 2012 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that there are 159,027 people who have some type of disability living in Allegheny County. In order to better serve these residents, the Department of Emergency Services has developed a Special Needs Registry which allows them to provide voluntary information that would be helpful for emergency responders to know when responding to a call.

Any county resident who requires additional assistance due to special needs during a police, fire or medical emergency may submit information to the registry. This includes any physical or mental disability that would keep an individual from leaving the home quickly if they had to do so. This can include individuals with autism, those who are deaf-blind, and those who have intellectual disabilities, as well as individuals who have physical challenges. In the event that someone with special needs is unable to submit information on their own, a person who is authorized to act on their behalf may do so.

This is a voluntary registry. The information provided will be shared with 911, fire, police, EMS, emergency planners and first responders in times of crisis. Persons on the registry are volunteering for the list and have the choice to agree to assistance, or to say no. If someone does not want to

disclose health information, they should not register. Providing this information does not guarantee that the person will receive immediate or special aid in an emergency or disaster. People should always have their own emergency plan in place. Individuals should be aware that their municipality may not be able to accommodate specific needs, but may be able to make a reasonable accommodation.

### Contact Us

Information related to the registry, FAQs, and an online submission form may be found at: [www.alleghenycounty.us/specialneedsregistry](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/specialneedsregistry).

Residents may phone our offices from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday;

**412-473-1000 (Voice Only)**

**412-473-3056 (TTY/TDD Only)**

Registry information may also be sent by U.S. Mail to:

**Emergency Services**

**Attn: Special Needs Registry**

**400 North Lexington Street, Suite 200**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15208-2521**

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### **What special needs should be submitted to the Registry?**

Any physical, mental, sensory or intellectual disability that would keep an individual from leaving the home quickly in the event of an emergency, should submit information. This may include individuals with autism and those who are deaf or blind.

### **I live in an independent living facility, do I need to register?**

No. The registry is only intended for use by those who do not live in a residential special needs facility (i.e. nursing home or hospital).

### **Will my information be kept confidential?**

The information provided through the registry will be shared with local, county, state and federal agencies for the purposes of emergency planning or emergency response. The County will make every effort to respect privacy and confidentiality while providing for the needs of the people involved.

### **Is participation in the Special Needs Registry voluntary?**

Yes. Your submission of an application is your voluntary request to be included.