



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Individuals with autism may apply for identification cards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alabamians who have a diagnosis that falls within the autism disorder spectrum may now apply for an identification card that can assist in their interactions with first responders and law enforcement officers during potentially stressful situations.

Wording on the card explains that the individual falls within the autism spectrum and may have difficulty communicating or understanding directions. The card further states that the person may become agitated if touched because of his or her medical condition.

Before a card is issued, a health care provider must verify that the person is on the autism spectrum. This form may be found on the following website: <http://adph.org/disability> The cards also contain the contact information for someone who can confirm the cardholder's diagnosis.

Individuals may apply for the billfold-size card at county health departments throughout the state for an issuance fee of \$10.

The identification cards were developed as a result of Act 2014-344, passed during the 2014 session of the Alabama Legislature.