

Locative Technology

What to know



Who Could Benefit?

- Individuals with Autism, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD), and Alzheimer's or related dementias who are at increased risk of injury or death due to wandering and drowning.



What is Locative Technology?

- Tools like tracking devices, wearable tech, **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)**, or **Global Positioning Systems (GPS)** that help locate individuals.



When to Consider Locative Technology?

- The use of locative technology is a personal choice for each family and individual.
- It can enhance safety for individuals at risk of wandering and can be part of a comprehensive safety plan.
- It may also raise privacy and autonomy concerns.
- Consider developmental appropriateness, required law enforcement involvement, and the device's compatibility with the local environment.



Where is Locative Technology Used?

- Different technologies may be more suitable depending on the setting (urban vs. rural).
- Some locative devices are waterproof but not all devices are effective in the water.

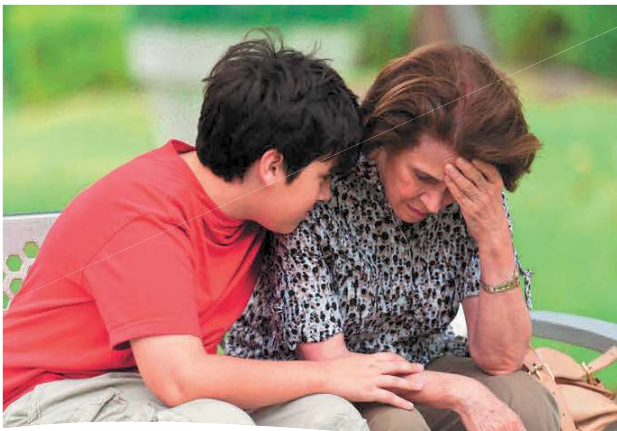


Why Use Locative Technology?

- Helps reduce the time needed to locate a missing person, reducing the risk of injury or death.

❓ How Does Locative Technology Work?

- **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID):**
 - Uses electromagnetic fields to automatically identify and track tags attached to objects.
 - Used by law enforcement and caregivers.
 - Strong signal unaffected by obstacles.
- **Global Positioning Systems (GPS):**
 - Uses satellites to provide geolocation and time information to a GPS receiver.
 - Accurate but requires a clear satellite path.
 - High battery demand.
- **Hybrid Tracking Systems:**
 - Combine technologies for areas with limited satellite access.
 - Useful for geofencing.
- **Bluetooth:**
 - Uses small wireless transmitters using low-energy Bluetooth technology to send signals.
 - Accurate within short range.
 - Small and lightweight.



📋 When Choosing Locative Technology, Consider:

- **Vendor Reliability:**
 - Check the vendor's history, focus, and stability.
 - Ensure the vendor understands the needs of Individuals with Autism, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD), and Alzheimer's or related dementias.
- **Emergency Communication:**
 - Decide if you want the device to transmit data to law enforcement or just family members.
 - Ensure compatibility with local law enforcement systems.
- **Cost:**
 - Some devices are free through programs such as the Kevin & Avonte grant and available at local nonprofits or law enforcement agencies; others require purchase.
 - Consider ongoing costs for subscriptions or maintenance.
- **Input from the Individual:**
 - Discuss the decision openly with the individual who will be using it.
 - Address potential stigmatization or discomfort with the device.
- **Maintenance:**
 - Regularly charge or replace batteries and maintain the device.
 - Have a backup safety plan during maintenance.
- **Water Resistance:**
 - Decide if a waterproof device is necessary, especially for those drawn to water.
- **Privacy Concerns:**
 - Balance safety needs with privacy concerns.