

If your special needs loved one were to become lost, would he/she be able to get home safely?

In Michigan, MCL 722.774 and MCL 28.274 allow a parent/legal guardian/power of attorney of an individual with special health care needs to voluntarily enroll the Vulnerable or Impaired Person's (VIP's) fingerprints and photograph* into a State of Michigan database repository. This, along with additional demographic information, including the home address of the VIP, a contact person's name, email, and the phone number of the person legally responsible for the VIP, can be used to assist in identifying the VIP should he/she become lost in the future or find him/herself in a situation in which he/she cannot identify him/herself.

Once enrolled in the VIP program, law enforcement has the ability to utilize a Live Scan device or mobile fingerprint scanner to access the information to quickly identify a VIP who may have trouble identifying him/herself. The goal of the VIP program is to return VIPs to safe, familiar environments, while maintaining their dignity.

Visit www.mi.gov/MSP-VIP to learn more.

Michigan State Police Automated Print Section



517-242-4558



MSP-VIP@michigan.gov



Not all fingerprint locations have the ability to capture photographs.

To learn more or enroll visit
www.mi.gov/MSP-VIP

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I get fingerprints enrolled and not have a photograph taken for facial recognition?

A: Yes. Submitting a photograph of a VIP is optional, and is only available at certain fingerprint locations.

Q: Can I get a photograph enrolled for facial recognition and not have fingerprints captured?

A: No. Submission of fingerprints is required for enrollment in the VIP program.

Q: Will I get notified that the fingerprints were successfully enrolled?

A: Yes. Notification will be sent to the email address provided on the VIP form. Please make sure the Live Scan agency enters your email address correctly.

Q: May I request fingerprints to be deleted if I no longer want them on file?

A: Yes, but only fingerprints that are taken for the VIP reason code can be removed.

Q: Is VIP information stored at the federal level and accessible to law enforcement personnel in other states?

A: Currently, federal law does not allow for this information to be stored at a federal level. It's possible that in the future the law will change to allow nationwide law enforcement access to VIP information.

Q: How do I update address or contact information when it changes?

A: Be sure to retain the confirmation email you receive when you enroll, as it will help to ensure that future changes are being made by an authorized person. To update your information, call the MSP at 517-242-4558.

Q: Is there a charge for this service?

A: The charge may vary depending on the agency doing the fingerprinting. Grant funds may be available to offset the cost. For further information about the availability of these funds, please contact MSP at 517-242-4558 prior to enrollment.

To learn more or enroll visit
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The Background of the "Bubba Bill"

I am the father of a boy named Andrew (better known as Bubba). One day, I received a phone call at work from Bubba's school informing me they had mistakenly put him on a bus going home, instead of releasing him to his caregiver. A feeling of panic immediately gripped me. My son is autistic and has diminished cognitive skills, along with challenges communicating. He was now heading home to a locked house, with no key, and no knowledge of how to work a lock. If he were to wander away, how would he get back home without the ability to communicate who he was or where he lived?

What happens when a child who thrives on routine collides with an unknown situation? My son's experience turned out all right due to a sibling unexpectedly being home, but it made me realize the smallest of mistakes could have catastrophic results.

Out of this experience grew the idea of allowing us, as parents or legal guardians of individuals with special needs, the ability to enroll our loved one's fingerprints and photograph into a state-managed database allowing for easier identification by a law enforcement officer. If law enforcement encounters an individual who may have wandered away or gotten lost and who is enrolled in this program, they can simply take a fingerprint and/or photograph to help identify the individual, often within seconds.

The goal of this initiative is to assist law enforcement in returning a Vulnerable or Impaired Person (VIP) to a safe environment with minimal trauma and loss of dignity. I presented the idea to law enforcement agencies, schools, and mental health organizations, expecting to hear reasons why it would not work, but only found support. Next, I called my Senator to inquire whether he would be interested in sponsoring the bill, and within ten minutes he agreed this was something we had to do. On that day the "Bubba Bill" was born, and within six months it was passed and signed into law. The law, now referred to as the VIP Law, went into effect August 2, 2017.

-Bubba's Dad