



The West Milford Police Department announces a new program to help people with Autism Spectrum Disorder during a traffic stop. It's called the Blue Envelope Program.

Being pulled over by a police officer can make anyone anxious. For someone with Autism Spectrum Disorder, it can cause an even greater issue, between the heightened situation, flashing lights, the sounds of radios and other noises.

That's why the West Milford Police Department started the Blue Envelope Program. We are trying to avoid any misunderstandings between our officers and drivers that have Autism Spectrum Disorder.

If someone with Autism Spectrum Disorder gets pulled over, the driver shows the blue envelope. The driver will keep their driver's license, vehicle registration, vehicle insurance, and emergency contact card inside the blue envelope.

The outside of the blue envelope contains instructions for the driver, like keeping hands on the wheel. The officer may shine their flashlight in the car and the police car may have flashing lights. On the reverse side of the envelope, it tells the officer what to do, like simplifying requests and if the driver becomes upset contact a person on the emergency contact card. A checked off box will also indicate whether the driver is verbal or nonverbal.

The Blue Envelope Program brings together law enforcement and motorists with autism and other sensory disorders. It's a convenient place to keep all driver documents. It contains instructions for the driver and the interacting officer in the event of a traffic stop. This tool will help bridge the gap in communication and build empathy in our community.

If you or a loved one would like to participate in the Blue Envelope Program, please contact our School Resource Officer, P.O Sue Novakowski at 973-697-1701 ext. 7115 or at the West Milford Police Department 973-728-2800 to obtain one or if you have any questions. This program is only available to Township of West Milford residents.