

# Questions to Turbocharge Your Missing Person Search

Autistic individuals rarely "wander" aimlessly. They have a **goal, destination, or purpose**- even if they can't communicate it.

## WHAT DO THEY LOVE?



ALWAYS  
CHECK ALL  
BODIES OF  
WATER FIRST!

ERIC IS  
ACTIVE AND  
SENSORY-  
SEEKING

"Eric loves bacon, trampolines, riding his hoverboard, going to the **park**, his **grandparents**, and shopping in the **mall**."

## WHAT DO THEY HATE?

ERIC IS HYPER  
SENSITIVE TO  
SOUND

"Eric hates **crying babies**, **barking dogs**, feeling hot, and **waiting**. He is very impatient."

## WHAT WAS THE PLAN?



Blue  
Bridge

- "First we were going to finish breakfast.
- Then chores.
- Then go to the **park**.
- Then visit his **grandma**."

## DID SOMETHING NOVEL HAPPEN?

"Now that you mention it, our neighbor's **dog** started **barking** really aggressively right before Eric disappeared."

## START HERE

- Quiet places where Eric could escape the noise of the **barking dog** (closets, parked cars, etc.).
- **Parks, malls, stores**.
- Route to **grandma's house** or inside **mom's car** (excited for the next step in the day's plan).



Click this QR Code for **FREE** access to a complete online course: *Autism: A Guide for Law Enforcement*

# THE FIRST 30 SECONDS

## 4 CRITICAL DETAILS TO DETERMINE FIRST

When an autistic individual is reported missing



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**1**  
Are they dressed appropriately for the weather?

- Coat?
- Shoes?
- Will they keep them on?

**2**  
How do they communicate?

- Verbal?
- Assistive Communication Device?

**3**  
Do they understand danger?

- Water?
- Heat/Cold?
- Heights?
- Strangers?
- Traffic?

**4**  
Will they understand they are lost?

- Seek help?
- Fear discipline?

