Frequently Asked Questions – Blue Envelope Program

What is the Blue Envelope Program?

The Blue Envelope Program is a voluntary initiative designed to support drivers with autism spectrum disorder during interactions with law enforcement. The envelope provides a discreet way to inform officers about the driver's communication needs and contains important documents to help the traffic stop go smoothly.

Who can request a Blue Envelope?

Any individual diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder—or a caregiver, legal guardian, or parent on their behalf—can request a Blue Envelope. No medical documentation is required.

How much does the Blue Envelope cost?

The envelope is provided free of charge by the Virginia DMV. It's part of our commitment to ensuring that all drivers with autism have the tools they need for safer interactions during traffic stops.

Do I have to prove I have autism to receive an envelope?

No. This is a self-identification tool. No diagnosis documentation is required to receive a Blue Envelope.

Where can I get a Blue Envelope?

You can pick one up at any Virginia DMV Customer Service Center (CSC). Staff will provide one upon request. Browse our <u>locations</u> to find a Customer Service Center near you.

What documents should be kept in the Blue Envelope?

We recommend including the following documents:

- Vehicle registration
- Vehicle insurance card
- Emergency contact information

We also recommend including a copy of your driver's license so that all documents typically requested during a traffic stop are stored in one place.

Where do I keep the Blue Envelope?

We recommend keeping the envelope in an easily reachable location in your vehicle, such as the glove compartment, attached to your driver's side sun visor, or another accessible area.

Can I get more than one Blue Envelope?

Yes. You may request additional envelopes—for example, for multiple vehicles or if you are a caregiver for more than one person who may benefit from the program.

What if I lose my Blue Envelope?

You can request a replacement at any Virginia DMV Customer Service Center. There is no cost for a replacement envelope.

Is my information stored by the DMV?

No. The DMV does not collect or store any personal identifying information when you receive or use a Blue Envelope. Participation in the Blue Envelope Program is voluntary and confidential. Neither DMV nor law enforcement will maintain records or a database of participants.

Can passengers use the Blue Envelope too?

Yes. Passengers with autism spectrum disorder may carry the envelope and use it to communicate their needs if involved in a traffic stop or accident.

What should I do with the Blue Envelope during a traffic stop?

- 1. Pull over safely and stop your vehicle.
- 2. Keep your hands on the steering wheel.
- 3. Roll down your window.
- 4. Say, "I have a Blue Envelope," and hand it to the officer when asked for your documents.

How do law enforcement officers know about the Blue Envelope?

Virginia DMV is partnering with law enforcement agencies across Virginia to raise awareness and provide training on the Blue Envelope Program. While efforts are being made to ensure widespread recognition, it's possible that some officers may not be immediately familiar with the program.

If I have a Blue Envelope will I still be cited for a traffic violation?

Participation in the Blue Envelope Program does not prevent a driver from receiving a citation.

What should I do if an officer seems unaware of the program?

If the officer does not know what the Blue Envelope is, stay calm and continue to follow the usual steps during a traffic stop. You can say: "This envelope helps me communicate. I have autism." The envelope has helpful information and your documents inside.

Need Additional Support?

If you have more questions or need help getting a Blue Envelope, our DMV Customer Service Center staff are happy to assist you. Visit your nearest location or our <u>Contact Us</u> page for additional ways to get in touch.