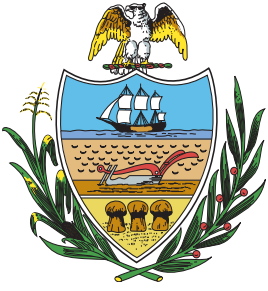


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DECALS TO HELP EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL RECOGNIZE THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Oftentimes when first responders come in contact with a person with special needs during an emergency situation, they are unaware that the person actually has special needs. The idea for the decal is to help first responders better deal with special needs individuals by knowing in advance the person is special needs.

Special needs (or additional needs) is a term used in clinical diagnostic and functional development to describe individuals who require assistance for disabilities that may be medical, mental, or psychological. Special needs can range from people with autism, Asperger syndrome, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia, blindness, deafness, ADHD, cystic fibrosis and others. Some of the responses of a special needs individual are listed below:

- Displays inappropriate laughing and giggling
- Has no fear of real dangers
- Hits self or inflicts pain on self
- Has an aversion to being cuddled
- Avoids eye contact
- Displays an apparent insensitivity to pain
- Displays crying tantrum or extreme distress for no discernible reason
- Demonstrates an inappropriate response or no response at all to sound
- Possesses a stand-offish manner

I hope the decals assist emergency service personnel in recognizing and treating those with special needs when the situation arises.

District 4: *Avalon, Carnegie, Collier, Crafton, Heidelberg, Kennedy, McDonald (5TH District), McKees Rocks, Neville, Oakdale, Pennsbury Village, Robinson, Scott, South Fayette, Stowe & Thornburg*