



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: Friday, April 3, 2026.** Please include this submission form as the first page of your electronic entry. Contact [Gage Harter](#) with any questions.


PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Prince William County
Program Title: Prince William County Sheriff's Office Senior Safe Program
Program Category: Criminal Justice & Public Safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Matthew Todd
Title: First Sergeant
Department: Prince William County Sheriff's Office (Office of Professional Standards)
Telephone: (703) 792-5442 Website: <https://www.pwcva.gov/department/sheriffs-office>
Email: mtodd@pwcgov.org

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: 
Title: COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Signature: CHRISTOPHER J. SHORTEN

Executive Summary: Prince William County Sheriff's Office Senior Safe Program

The Senior Safe Program is a program designed to enhance the safety, well-being, and quality of life for senior residents of Prince William County while maintaining their independence. The program establishes a reliable connection between the Prince William County Sheriff's Office and members of the senior community who participate in the program in the event of a medical emergency.

The Senior Safe Program utilizes a device, the Help Dialer 700, which can be activated by pressing a panic button (worn as a necklace, pendant, or bracelet) during a medical emergency. Once the button is pressed, the Help Dialer 700 will begin dialing through three preset contacts of the clients choosing and allow for two-way communication. Once a call is received, a pre-recorded message will play for the receiver, and the receiver can activate two-way communication

Master Deputy Joshua Thompson has grown the program from 15 active clients in 2024, to 95 active clients by the end of 2025. Master Deputy Thompson has enhanced the program by researching methods for Bluetooth adoption for iPhone, and Google cell phone devices and is currently researching methods for Android device synchronization with the Senior Safe Program.



Glendell Hill
Sheriff

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

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Date: March 18, 2026

To: Gage Harter, Virginia Association of Counties; Director of Communications

From: First Sergeant Matthew Todd

Re: Achievement Awards Nomination

The Prince William County Sheriff's Office Senior Safe Program was created in 2014. The Senior Safe Program is a medical alert program that is free of charge to seniors within our community that assists in protecting them while they remain in their homes. The program consists of a device (the Help Dialer 700) that allows members of our senior community to keep their independence and get help if needed during a medical emergency. By pressing a panic button that is worn as a pendant, necklace, or a bracelet during a medical emergency, the Help Dialer 700 will call three pre-programmed numbers (two numbers of the clients choosing, and the third pre-programmed number is to the main office extension of the Prince William County Sheriff's Office) and will play a personalized emergency message when one of the pre-programmed number answers the call. The receiver of the phone call can simply press any button on their phone and it will allow full two-way communication through a built-in

speakerphone from several rooms away. Seniors can access this help anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Master Deputy Joshua Thompson was assigned to our Office of Professional Standards in May of 2024. He eagerly took on the role as our point of contact for the Senior Safe Program. The Senior Safe Program consisted of 15 active members with a long list of pending applicants at the time of Master Deputy Thompson's appointment. By the end of 2025, the Senior Safe Program has 95 active members, with five pending members as of this writing.

When the Senior Safe Program was first introduced in 2014, the program was designed to be utilized in conjunction with landline phones. Master Deputy Thompson has taken the initiative to research ways and additional equipment, to make the Help Dialer 700 work in conjunction with cell phones. As of this writing, Master Deputy Thompson has found ways to make the Help Dialer 700 compatible with iPhone, and Google phone devices. He is actively researching solutions for Android devices. Also, Master Deputy Thompson has created a schedule that allows him to visit every client in-person on an annual basis to physically inspect and test the Senior Safe Program equipment.

Our Office has received messages from grateful family members of active clients, as well as from active clients, of the Senior Safe Program for Master Deputy Thompson's thoroughness, empathy, and diligent work he has brought to this program. Master Deputy Thompson frequently attends senior citizen community events as a representative from our Office to discuss the Senior Safe Program and continues to explore new ways to ensure that seniors can maintain their independence with the ability to receive help in the event of a medical emergency.