



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Zionsville Police Department joins AWARE initiative

The Zionsville Police Department has joined the AWARE program initiative. The program, created in 2021 by the Avon, Indiana Police Department, aims to raise awareness of cognitive disabilities and medical-related impairments for first responders. Through the initiative, ZPD officers can identify individuals who may struggle with the ability to comprehend, communicate or comply with first responders.

AWARE provides a readily identifiable 4" sticker that can be placed on vehicles and residences to serve as an indicator that first responders may likely interact with an individual with a cognitive disorder. By doing so, first responders can adjust their response with the knowledge that the person(s) they are encountering may have special or unique needs. This helps with mental health awareness and de-escalation strategies.

**How it works:**

- Individuals or families with special needs should obtain a referral from their doctor and complete this [form](#).
- Submit the form to Zionsville Police Department either in person or via mail at 1075 Parkway Drive, Zionsville, IN 46077.
- Place the AWARE sticker in a vehicle rear window or near a front door to alert ZPD responders to the presence of a person with special or unique needs.

Zionsville Police Department is the 18<sup>th</sup> police department in the state to join the AWARE program and the first in Boone County. For questions, please contact Captain Drake Sterling at [dsterling@zionsville-in.gov](mailto:dsterling@zionsville-in.gov).

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