

## Camouflage Door

### Exit door too enticing...

Our loved one with dementia is home with us 24/7 hours and too often we feel like we must have eyes in the back of our head. When dealing with increased levels of dementia, our loved one can become an elopement risk. Here is what happened to a neighbor of mine. One moment the husband was sitting quietly just being themselves, so it seemed like a great time to do the laundry for the wife. She got absorbed in the task and soon it was 30 minutes later (could be much less time) and her loved one couldn't be found. In this example, the husband left the home via the front door and was walking beside the moderately busy country road. He fell in the ditch and needed help. Our Maryland ditches are nothing to sneeze at! A good Samaritan found him and called for an ambulance. By the time the wife noticed he was gone and had called the authorities, he had arrived in the ER with no identification and couldn't communicate.

These situations can happen very quickly. There are several points to consider to see if the situation could have been eliminated.

1. Could the wife have heard the door opening via an alarm or received a signal on her smartphone that her husband was beyond a certain distance from the home? Yes, to both.
2. Could his identification have been easier by the ambulance and ER personnel? Yes, one solution is the identification bracelet provided by the Greater Maryland Alzheimer's Association, **24/7 Helpline, 800.272.3900. Please call.**

The story got worse from there for both of them. He was never able to go home again.

But let's look at ideas even before this husband walked out the front door. Sometimes if the eye doesn't SEE the door, then the door doesn't exist for them. A camouflaging curtain that extends above the door frame, goes to almost the floor, and is wider than the door can be very helpful.



And the color can make a big difference. In the example, the curtain is a very high contrast color to the wall color – the color draws the eye. Perhaps a color closer to the wall color will make it even harder to see. What do you think? Is your loved one ready for some camouflage in their lives? Are there other places that would be helpful to use a curtain?

Often resources for family members talk about redirecting their activities to some of these activities:

- Item Sorting.

- Arts and Crafts.
- Walks in controlled environments.
- Folding Clothes.
- Molding with Clay.
- Painting.
- Exercising

What do you think, does redirecting work for your loved one?

## One Handed Typing

There are other reasons someone will want to talk to an Assistive Technologist. If you are unable to continue typing with two hands but would still like to be productive on a keyboard, then there are several options. Here is a new keyboard that is really a winner for a one-handed typist.



The first image shows a left-handed typist but by turning the keyboard over, it becomes a keyboard for a right-handed typist. So simple! And the mouse is built in! And notice there is no cord, it is a Bluetooth keyboard and rechargeable. And because this is such a new type of keyboard, it comes with a free trainer on learning how to type on it. If you were ever a touch typist, you understand how important it is

to be able to type without looking at the keys. What a marvelous invention. Please check out their website to learn more about it.

**[www.tipykeyboard.com](http://www.tipykeyboard.com)**

Don't let your limitation stop you! Remember to call if you need information on **funding**.



That's it for this time. Enjoy!

Share this resource with your friends, they don't have to be a caregiver!

Be well. Take care of you!

Have questions? Please contact us by phone or email (see below).

[For those of you reading this outside the Lower Shore of Maryland – please contact your local Area Agency on Aging for assistance.]

Give us a call or email and we will be glad to answer questions about the resources we have. **Please call** and ask at 410-742-0505, ext. 118 – Cindy Robinson **Or, email** Janet Parke at [iparke@macinc.org](mailto:iparke@macinc.org)



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