

# **Georgia's Yellow Dot Program Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What is Georgia's Yellow Dot Program?**

Georgia's Yellow Dot program is a free program designed to help first responders provide life-saving medical attention during that first "golden hour" after a medical emergency. A Yellow Dot in the driver's side rear window of your vehicle or the "triple tree" of your motorcycle will alert first responders that vital medical information is stored in the glove compartment. The Yellow Dot program can also be used in the home by placing the decal on or beside your front or entry door and placing the packet on your refrigerator.

## **Who should use Georgia's Yellow Dot Program?**

Georgia's Yellow Dot Program can be used by anyone but may be most helpful for:

- People with multiple or serious medical conditions
- People with severe allergies
- Children with special needs
- Individuals with dementia who may be prone to driving

## **I think I've seen Yellow Dot in other states. Is this the same program?**

The Yellow Dot program began in Connecticut in 2002. Many states have adopted the program. In other states, the Yellow Dot program is used for motor vehicle crashes. Georgia has expanded the program to include medical emergencies in the home. The Georgia Yellow Dot logo was created to look similar to other Yellow Dots so it could be recognized when you travel in other states.

## **Is Yellow Dot in my community?**

At this time, Yellow Dot is only in two areas: Laurens County and Athens-Clarke County. These counties are participating in our pilot project and evaluation. Stay tuned to the website for more information on other sites!

## **What is the cost for Yellow Dot?**

At this time, Georgia's Yellow Dot program is free for those participating in the pilot/evaluation project in Laurens and Athens counties.

## **I've seen Yellow Dot for sale online, should I get my materials there?**

No, for two reasons:

- First, Georgia's yellow dot is free for those participating in the pilot program (Laurens and Athens-Clarke Counties, respectively).
- Second, only emergency personnel in the piloting counties have been trained to look for the Yellow Dot and to know where to find your medical information.

If you order a Yellow Dot packet online but live in a county where your emergency personnel isn't trained on the program, it will not be as beneficial to you.

## **Why can't I just print off a form and use it if I live in another county?**

The program only works if emergency responders and medical personnel at the hospital are trained to recognize the Yellow Dot decal, look for the form and use the information. Other counties have not been trained on the program.

## **Where do I get a Yellow Dot Packet?**

Packets can be picked up at local enrollment sites. You can find a list of enrollment sites at [www.aging.ga.gov/yellow-dot-program](http://www.aging.ga.gov/yellow-dot-program). New forms can be printed from the website if you need to update your form.

## **How can my agency become an enrollment site?**

Please email [yellowdot.info@dph.ga.gov](mailto:yellowdot.info@dph.ga.gov) for information on becoming an enrollment site.

## **What type of picture should I use?**

Any picture can be used as long as you can clearly identify the person in the picture and there is only one person in the picture. The best photos have good lighting and a neutral background so it is easy to identify the person. Also, make sure to choose a photo that looks like you now, not you 10 years ago. You do not need your entire body in the photo. In fact, a photo from the shoulders up would work best. If you don't already have a photo, the cheapest option is to have someone take a photo for you and either print it at home or have it printed at a store that prints pictures. You can usually get a single photo printed for less than \$1. You will need to trim the photo to make it fit so be mindful of that when taking the photo. Don't get too close. You can also choose to get a passport photo taken. These photos are a great size for the form but will cost more. Prices vary but are usually between \$10 and \$15 dollars. Many stores that print photos offer this service as well.

### **I don't want to put the decal on my car or house. Can I still participate in Georgia's Yellow Dot Program?**

The decal alerts first responders to look for the form in the glove compartment, motorcycle saddle bag, or on the refrigerator. If you do not use the decal, there is no guarantee that first responders will know to look for the form; however, first responders have been encouraged to look for the form even without the decal if time permits. To save time and help your emergency responders, it is recommended to use the decal.

### **I have information that I'm not comfortable putting on the form in case my family sees it. What should I do?**

Emergency responders and medical personnel will use the information that you put on the form. If information is blank or not checked, they will not assume you do not have that condition. They will use the protocols they use when they do not have information available.

### **Are first responders and medical personnel required to utilize all of the information I put on my form?**

No. First responders will determine the most useful information from your form as it applies to the situation. They will also determine whether or not to use the forms based on how up-to-date they feel the forms are.

### **How often should I update the form?**

You should update the form any time your information changes. At a minimum, you should review the form every six months. Even if you don't make any changes, be sure to change the date updated fields on each page.

### **Where can I get a new form?**

You can print a new form at [www.aging.ga.gov/yellow-dot-program](http://www.aging.ga.gov/yellow-dot-program).

### **I take a lot of medications. Do I have to write them out?**

It is important that medical professionals know the medications you are taking. If you already have a list of your medications, you can include a copy in your packet instead of writing them down. You can also ask your pharmacy to print out your medications and include the copy in your packet.

### **What do I put in the yellow OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION box?**

This box is intended for any information you feel is important and was not captured on the form. Since this box will stand out to emergency responders and medical personnel, you can also highlight something you feel is especially important even if it is on the

form. If you have an advance directive, living will or Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) and did not include it in your Yellow Dot packet, you should list its location here.

### **The form mentions POLST. What is that?**

Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) is a medical order that aims to enable seriously ill patients to designate the treatments they want and to ensure that those preferences are honored by medical professionals. The POLST is based on a conversation between you and your health care professional. The POLST conversation is about: (a) your specific disease, treatment options (including benefits and alternatives), and what will happen as the disease continues; and (b) your goals of care and values. After the conversation, your health care professional will fill out a POLST form, marking what treatments you do or do not want at the end of your life. Since the POLST is a medical order, once your health care professional signs it, it means that your treatment wishes will be known and should be followed during a medical emergency, regardless of where you are. You can read more about POLST at <http://www.gapolst.org/> and <http://www.polst.org/>.

### **My community is interested in participating in the Yellow Dot program. How do we get started?**

Currently, there is only funding for the Georgia Yellow Dot Program in the two pilot counties. If your community is able to purchase the packets, we are happy to work with you. The goal is for the program to become statewide if the pilot evaluation shows the program is effective. Therefore, we do not want multiple Yellow Dot programs in the state that would conflict with one another. If you want to bring Yellow Dot to your community, we ask that you use the Georgia Yellow Dot materials and do not make any changes to the form or instructions. You are able to add verbiage giving credit to the community partners that funded the program. We will put your information on the Georgia Yellow Dot Program website. Please email [yellowdot.info@dph.ga.gov](mailto:yellowdot.info@dph.ga.gov) if your community is interested.

**If your question was not answered here, please email  
[yellowdot.info@dph.ga.gov](mailto:yellowdot.info@dph.ga.gov).**