



## **"Are You O.K.? Program**

FREE computerized telephone system to check on senior citizens or disabled/homebound individuals. Provided by the Kings County Sheriff's Office. This program is available in the cities of Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore.

### **What is "Are You OK."?**

"Are You Okay" is a FREE service offered by the Kings County Sheriff's Office. We know Kings County has many senior citizens and we care about them. We are happy to offer this new computerized system to help check the welfare of each member.

The Kings County Sheriff's Office realizes many senior citizens live alone and may not have a family member living locally. We do not want to replace any contacts with family or friends, we simply are offering an added source of knowing you are being checked on daily.

### **General Information**

This system is currently in use in over 183 towns and cities throughout the United States and Canada, The system is capable of making 120 calls per hour. The "Are You OK.?" system has been in use in Kings County since January 1997 and has been very successful so far.

### **How does it work?**

As a member you select the time of day you wish to be called. You will be called the same time each and every day. All you need to do is pick up your telephone and listen to the prerecorded message. You do not need to talk or respond in any way and you may hang up at any time during the message. The computer assumes you are okay if you answer the telephone. Should you be using the phone or did not have time to answer the phone, two more attempts will be made to contact you. If all attempts fail an "alert" will be issued and your emergency contact person will be notified to check on you. If the person is not available, a deputy! officer will be sent to your home to check on you.

### **What about my vacation?**

As a member you can call whenever you will be away from home. Simply tell Central Dispatch the dates you will not be home and your calls will be stopped temporarily. When you return home notify Central Dispatch and your calls will begin again.

### **Can I make changes?**

Yes. If you decide you don't like the time you chose or need to update any information, simply call Central Dispatch and they will be glad to help you.

## What if I don't like it?

Once you join the program we are sure you will find it comforting and hassle free. If you should decide the program is not what you wanted or needed, please call Central Dispatch and request to be taken off' the program.

## How do I join?

If you live in Kings County and would like to join this program simply call Central Dispatch at 582-3211 ext. 2720 and they will be happy to enroll you.

If you live in the City of Avenal please call the Kings County Sheriff's Office's Avenal Substation at 386-5361 during normal business hours to join.

To join the "Are You O.K.?" program simply call the number for your area and answer some simple questions. It really is that easy. There is a one page questionnaire which needs to be completed to join. You will need to provide information such as your name, address, phone number, date of birth, emergency contact information and a brief medical history.

## Tell a friend

Once you decide to join the "Are You O.K.?" program and enjoy being a member, please feel free to tell your friends about the program. It is through word of mouth this program will expand and become even more successful.

The Kings County Sheriff's Office is a "community oriented" organization and is proud to offer this service to the seniors of Kings County FREE of charge!

## Member comments

"The Are You Okay program is the one that brings the most emotionally and needed RELIEF to both members and their family." Lorraine Taber

"I think the program and people are great for those who live alone. I missed one call and within minutes a deputy and Barbara were at my home to check on me." Ethel Dodson

"Well thank you, that's what I tell the computer each morning when it calls me to make sure Jam okay. I really appreciate the daily call." Ruth Smithson

"It is great to be a part of the Kings County Sheriff's Department's Are You Okay program. Since I live alone and do not have a family member close to A venal, the Are You Okay program assures me that if I'm not able to answer the phone someone will check on me and contact a family member. Members of the Kings County Sheriffs Department have not forgotten the elderly. The Citizens on Patrol program also have not forgotten the elderly. Their friendly visits to my house each week is the highlight of my week." Virginia Scow

## More Information

More information can be found on the internet. Go to the Lemoore Police Department website at <http://www.lemoore.com/lpd/ruok.htm>.