

PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS (PERS)

Information and Listings

Personal Emergency Response System (PERS), also known as a medical signaling device, typically has three components: a small radio transmitter, a console connected to your telephone, and an emergency response center that monitors calls. Transmitters are light-weight, battery-powered, and water resistant. You can wear one around your neck, on a wrist band, on a belt, or in your pocket. This device can be an answer to the need for both security and independence

When you need help, you press the transmitter's help button, which sends a signal to the console. The console is programmed to call an emergency response center. The emergency response center will talk with you to determine the nature of your emergency, and will respond appropriately. Information about your medical history, along with the names and phone numbers of your friends, relatives, or emergency services (police, fire department, or ambulance) are quickly available.

You can purchase, rent, or lease a PERS. Expect to pay an installation fee, which typically ranges from \$40-\$50, along with a monthly monitoring charge which can range from \$15-\$50 per month. Keep in mind that Medicare, Medicaid, and most insurance companies **do not pay** for this service. In addition to offering basic PERS service, some companies provide extras - such as check-in calls, wake-up calls, and medication reminders - for an additional cost. Also, certain companies will provide discounts, such as for being a Veteran.

The Federal Trade Commission recommends the following precautions when ordering PERS services:

- Check out several systems before making a decision.
- Ask about the pricing, features, and servicing of each system, and compare costs.
- Make sure that the system is easy to use. Buttons should be easy to operate and batteries easy to change.
- Ask whether the monitoring center is available 24 hours a day, what kind of training its operators receive, and what the average response time is.
- Test to be sure that the system works from every point in and around your home. Make sure nothing interferes with transmissions.
- If unsure of a company's reputation, check with the Better Business Bureau.
- Read the written agreement carefully before signing it, and look for extra charges, like cancellation fees.

The Schuyler County Office for the Aging does not endorse any of these PERS providers.

CST, Your Link to Life
1-888-557-4462
www.linktolife.com

LIFE Watch USA
1-800-716-1433
www.lifewatch-usa.com

ADT
1-877-678-6952
www.adt.com

Guardian Alert 911, 1-800-953-5211, Ext 1
One-time fee, connects user to local 911
www.guardianalert-911.com/

Doyle Security Systems HELP LINK
1-866-GO-DOYLE (1-866-463-6953)
www.godoyle.com/medical-monitoring-systems

Lifefone
1-844-253-7939
www.lifefone.com

Phillips Life Line
1-800-380-3111
www.lifeline.philips.com

Response Link
1-866-894-1428
www.respondelink.com

ALERT ONE
1-866-648-2947
www.alert-1.com

Safety Choice by Comfort Keepers
607-272-0444
www.comfortkeepers.com

GreatCall 5Star Responder Wireless Personal Security Device
Available at Wal-Mart & Sears, or call 1-800-650-5918
www.greatcall.com/5star_urgent_response/

Mobile Help
1-800-800-1710
www.mobilehelpnow.com

Caring Responders - affiliate of Lincare Inc.
1-866-993-0661
www.caringresponders.com