



Interfaith Caregivers
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ALERTLINK

What is ALERTLINK?

ALERTLINK is a personal alert system that links you with 24-hour assistance at the push of a button. It allows you to move freely around your home or yard with the confidence of knowing that if you need help, all you need to do is press the personal help button worn on a neck chain or wristband.

How the System Works

As an ALERTLINK client, you will receive a personal help button that you may wear around your neck or on your wrist. The ALERTLINK console is connected to your telephone line. When you fall and/or press your personal help button or the emergency bar on your console unit, trained personnel receive your help call and immediately attempt to make voice contact with you. If assistance is needed, they will contact one of your “responders”—relatives or neighbors you have previously designated. In more serious situations, the ambulance or police will be dispatched for help.

Who is Eligible?

Any resident of Faribault or Martin County, MN is eligible. In addition, residents of adjacent counties who receive medical care from United Hospital or who are registered clients of Interfaith Caregivers are also eligible.

How to Receive this Service

If you would like to receive this service, or if you would like more information, please call Interfaith Caregivers at 526-4684. If you decide ALERTLINK is right for you, we will schedule an appointment with Interfaith staff who will install the unit, explain how to use it, complete paperwork, and answer questions.

What it Costs

The initial installation fee for the service is \$35. In addition, you will be billed \$20 per month for the water-resistant pendant or \$25 per month for the fall detection water-resistant pendant. If you would like two pendants there will be an additional charge of \$10 per month. Your bill will be sent monthly from (and is payable to) Interfaith Caregivers.

What are the System Limitations?

Your ALERTLINK console must be connected to a working telephone landline and power outlet to operate. While the system will remain operational during power outages for as long as the life of the battery, it will not operate when telephone service is disrupted. The personal alert button has a limited range and will only operate when within 1,000 ft. from the console unit.

How to Convince my Loved One to use ALERTLINK?

Caregivers sometimes find that their loved ones are reluctant to use an emergency alert system such as ALERTLINK. Some may feel that service is unnecessary because they have never been in a situation where the service would have been necessary. We hope such an emergency never does occur. Nonetheless, the system is a great way for clients and their caregivers to have peace of mind that should an emergency occur, help would be available. Sometimes our loved ones also feel that using an alert system signals an inability to take care of themselves. However, the opposite is true. A person who uses ALERTLINK shows that they can take care of themselves by being prepared for an emergency and by giving peace of mind to family caregivers.

What Other Services do Interfaith Caregivers Provide?

Caregiver Support and Respite Program. We serve family caregivers by helping to reduce the burden and stress of caring for an older adult. Our Caregiver Consultants offer individual support and encouragement, support groups, workshops, and volunteer-based respite care.

Daybreak. This program is designed to give a live-in caregiver a break while the care receiver spends time with our trained Daybreak Consultant doing various activities to help stimulate the mind and memory.

Elder Care. This program focuses on providing adults over 60 with volunteer-based, non-medical services such as transportation, visiting, homemaking and chores. Our goal is to help them remain independent and socially connected in their own homes as long as possible.

Live Well at Home. Interfaith Caregivers is a provider of Minnesota's Live Well at Home program. Using a seven question "quiz", we help identify risk factors which may accelerate the need for nursing home placement. Follow up consultation, if desired, helps clients to know their options and available resources for staying at home as long as possible.

Senior Wellness Initiative. Long-term independence depends largely on staying as healthy as possible. Interfaith Caregivers offers Lunch and Learn seminars throughout the year on different topics relating to aging and health. We also offer workshops to help seniors improve balance, reduce the risk of falling, and achieve optimal health.