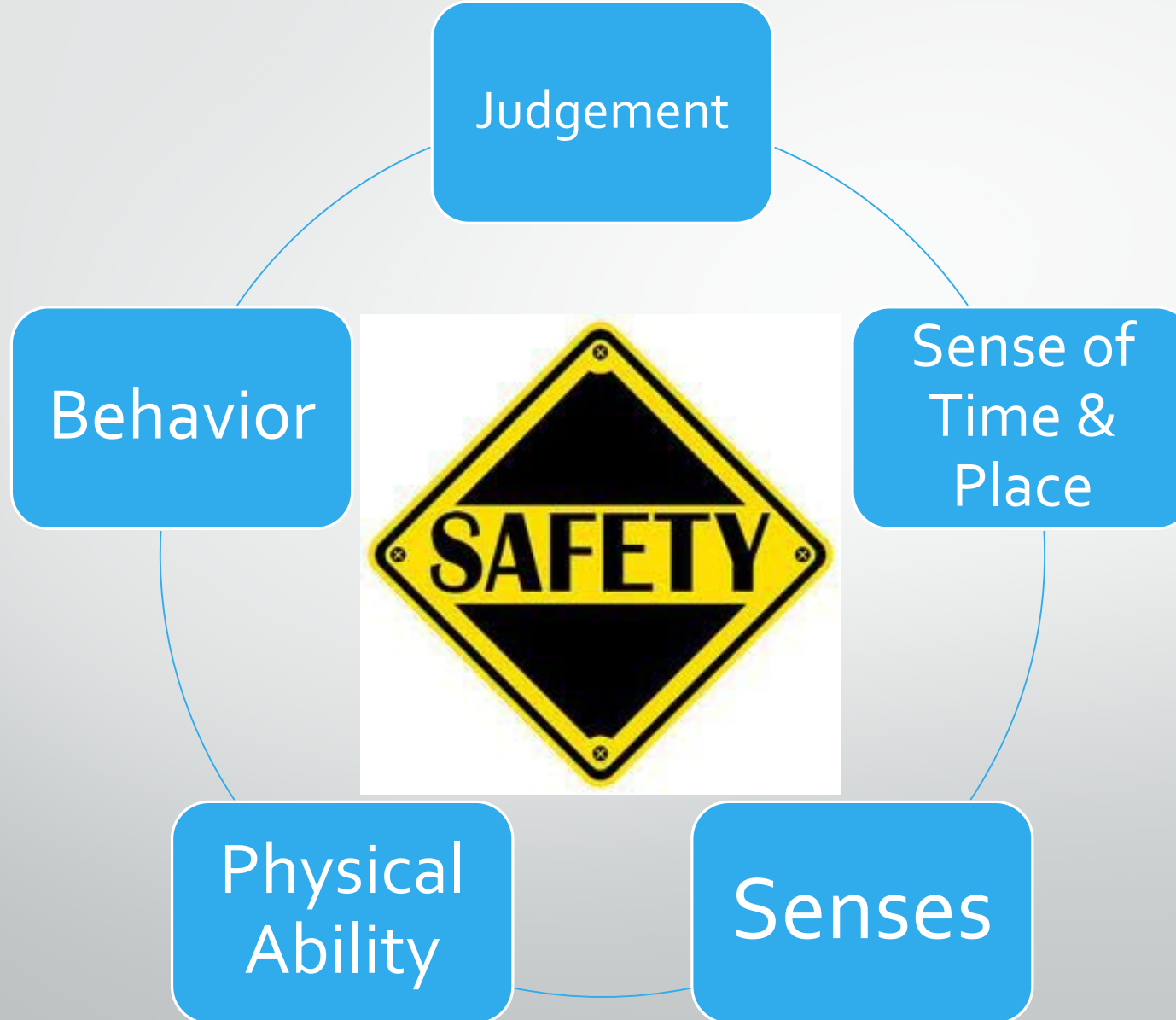


Safe Environments

Kelly Parsons, CSW

Sanders Brown Center on Aging

Dementia can affect safety in several ways



Physical Abilities

- ❖ Assess stairs and steps
- ❖ Clear pathways of clutter
- ❖ Keep the home well lit
- ❖ Wear sturdy shoes or no skid socks
- ❖ Keep often used items in easy to reach places





Adaptive Safety Equipment in the Bathroom

Kentucky Assistive Technology Services: CARAT
(800) 327-5287



Judgement and Decision Making

- Hot water heater (120° max)
- Use of stoves, oven, and other electrical appliances
- Financial
- Firearms, power tools, other dangerous equipment
- Medication
- Alcohol and tobacco use



Safety and Scams

4 Signs it is a scam:

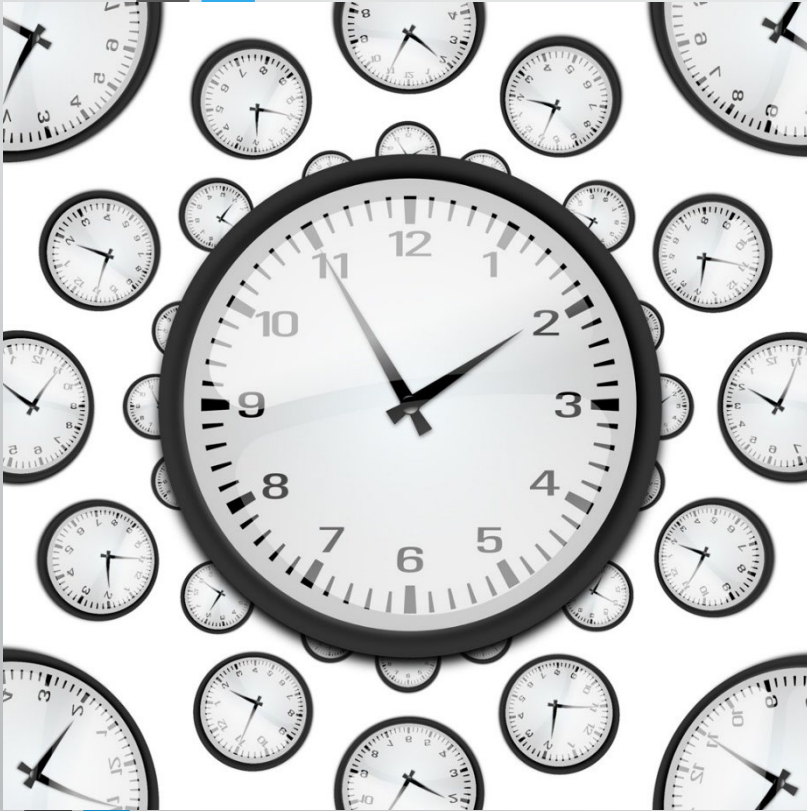
- 1.) Pretends to be from an organization you know
- 2.) Tells you there is a problem or a prize
- 3.) Pressures you to act immediately
- 4.) Requires payment in a specific type of way

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams>

- account text alerts
- secured credit card, no checks
- apps : Nomorobo, HiYa
- Snail Mail, PO Box
- Google-Call Screen, Apple *ask reason for calling*



Sense of Time and Place



 Wandering and Getting Lost

 Driving Safety

 Any sign of wandering or being unaware of their surrounding is cause for concern when a person has been diagnosed with dementia

 Look to medical providers and social workers for assistance and referrals

Definitions of Wandering

“Aimless or purposeful motor activity that causes a social problem such as getting lost, leaving a safe environment, or intruding in inappropriate places.” (Morishita, L., 1990)

“A change in a person’s physical location which results in his or her inability to return to the point of origin.” (Hussian, 1981)



Neighbors, Police, Firefighters
Smart Phone Apps
Ring Neighborhoods,
GroupMe, Next Door
Smart 9-1-1-

smart911.com

Medic Alert ID

1-800-432-5378





Action items for safety :

- ✔ Create engaging opportunities and activities
- ✔ Provide exercise- reduces anxiety and restlessness
- ✔ Ensure all activities of daily living needs are met



Promoting safety :

- ✔ Keep an extra key available
- ✔ Monitoring within the house
- ✔ Disable their vehicle and ensure car keys are not readily available

Using Technology

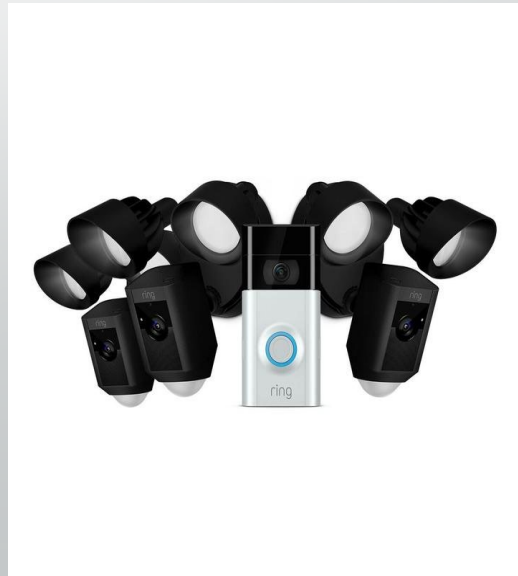
Alexa, Siri, Echo :Date and Time, To Do Lists, Medication and Appointment Reminders Play Music, Find My Phone , Wearable health and safety devices



Safety Alert System

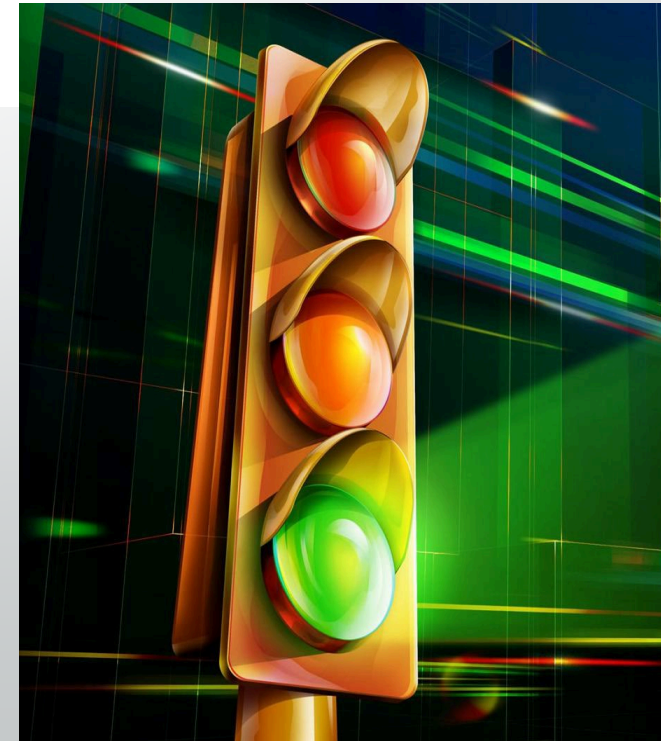


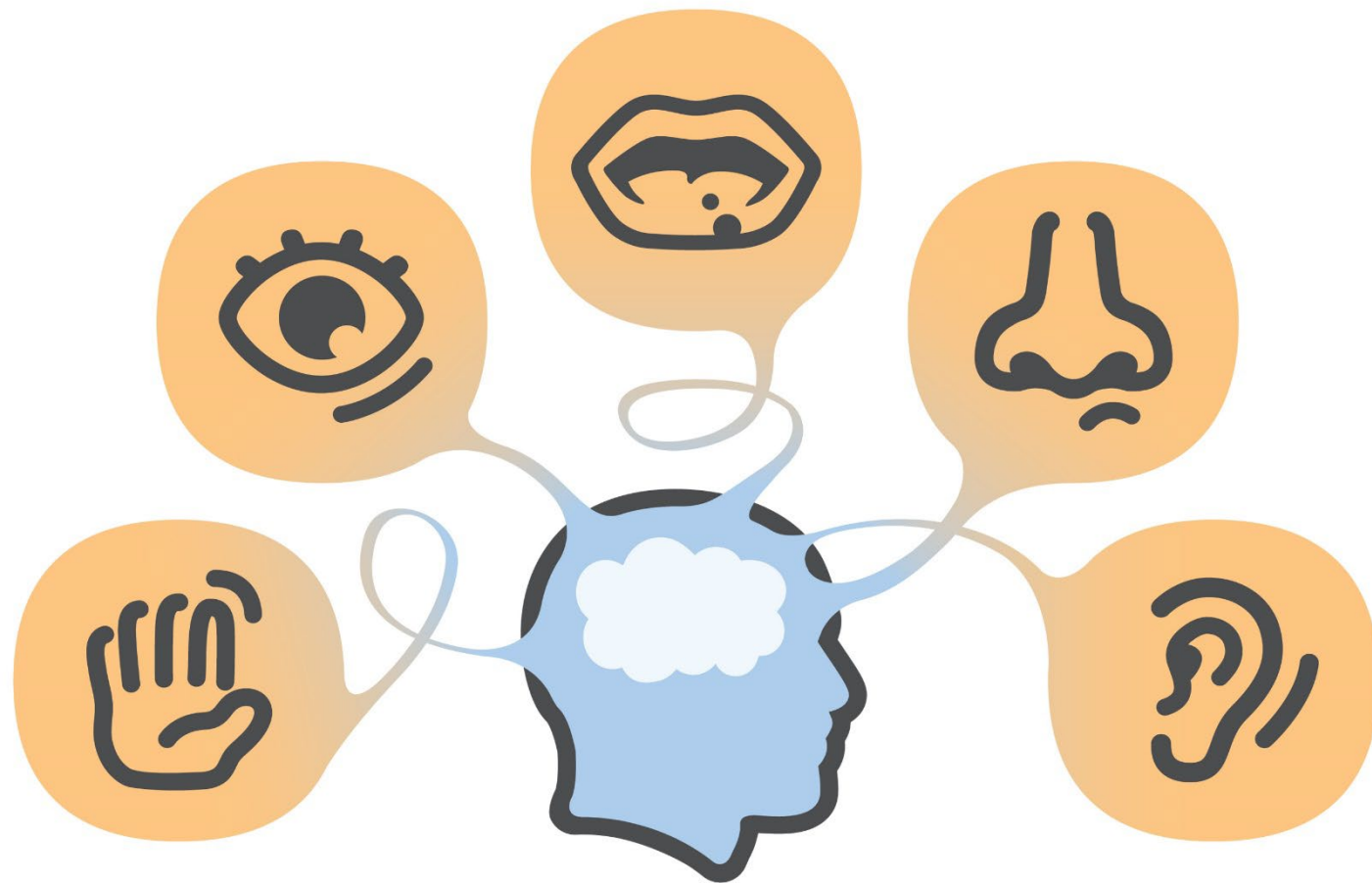
Ring Home Monitoring System





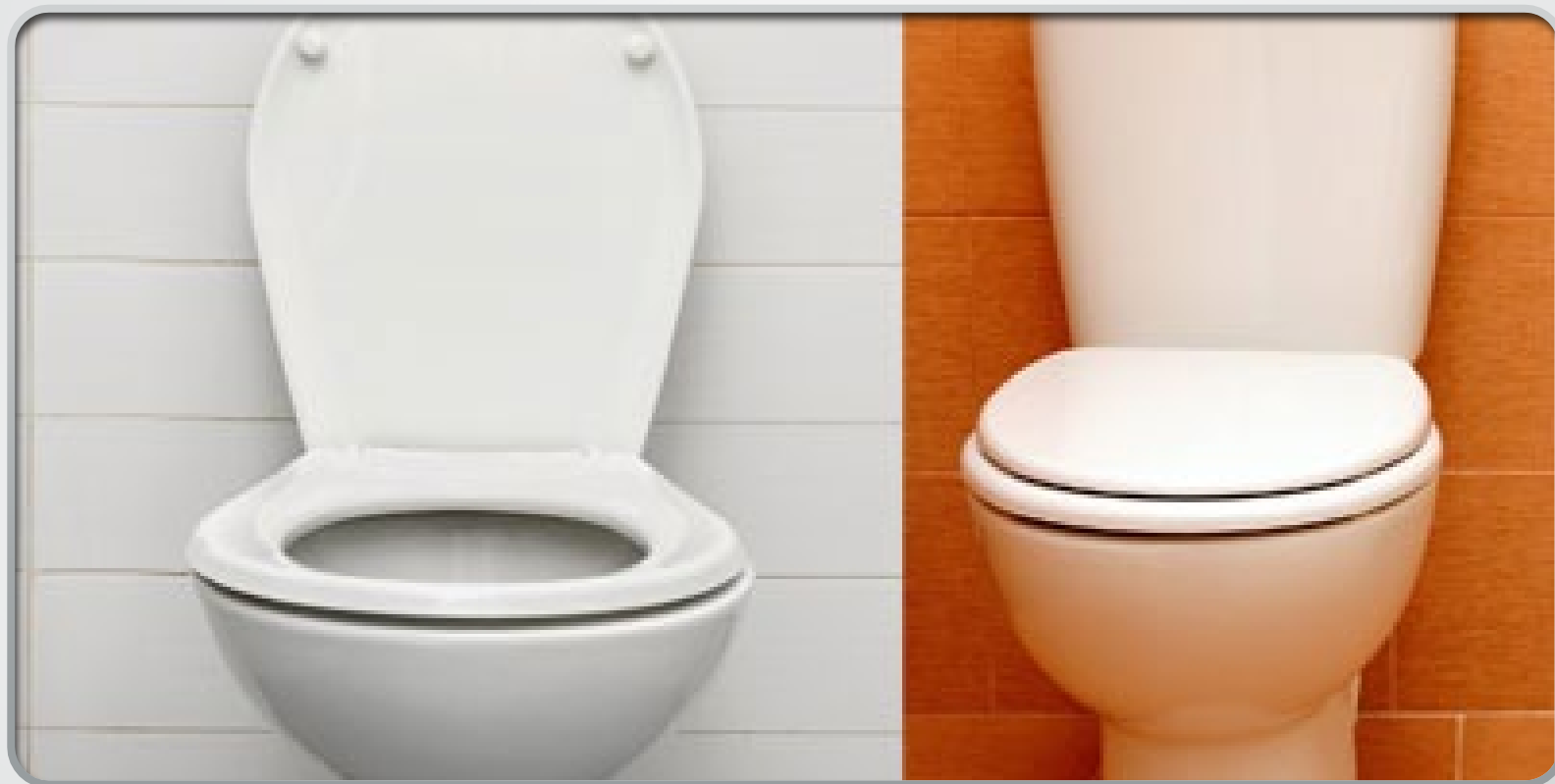
Driving Concerns





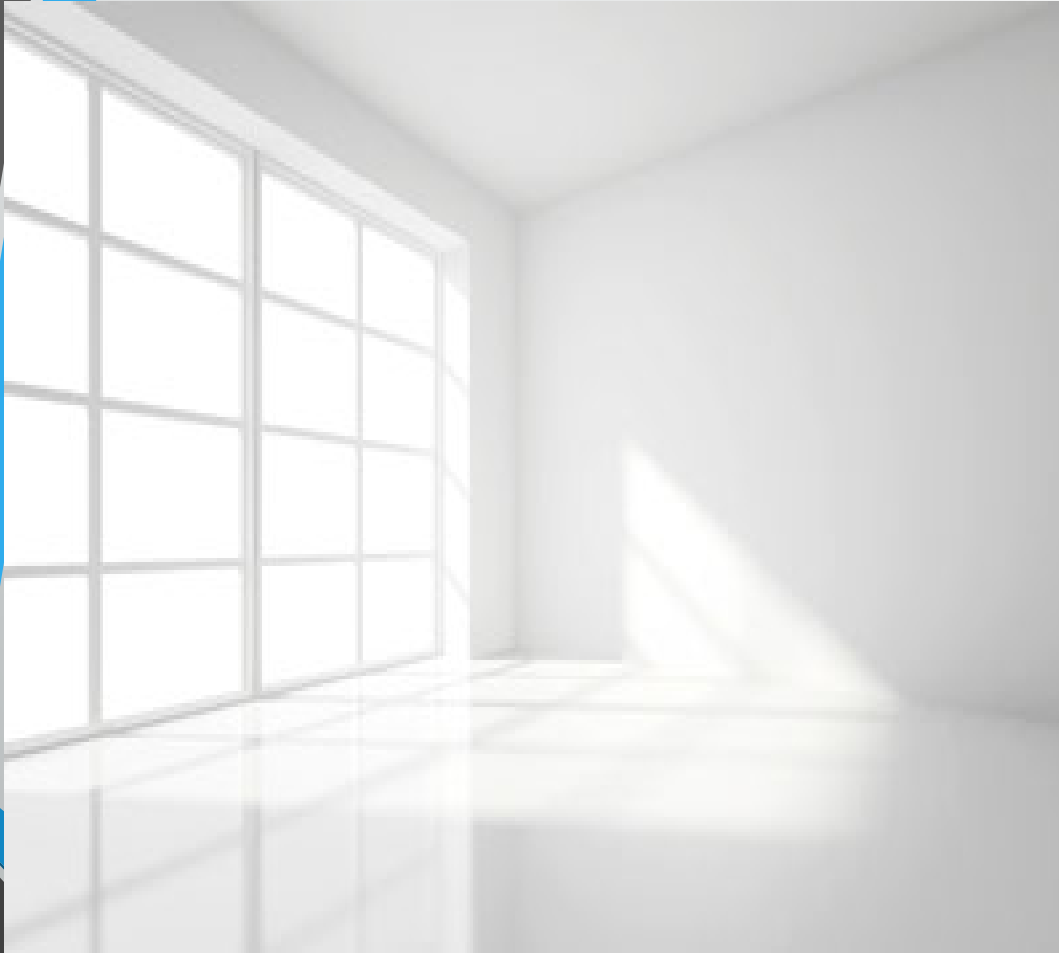
Senses





Contrast & Depth Perception

Glare



Confusion



Holes? Steps?

Other Safety Tips

- ❖ Have an emergency plan ready
- ❖ Notify law enforcement of memory impairment
- ❖ Check smoke detectors regularly
- ❖ Assess safety of the person in the home alone



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Open Forum for Questions

