

Tether RE Safety App

What REALTORS® need to know

While being a REALTOR® can be very rewarding, it can also be risky. Physical safety is often a concern.

To help you manage these risks, GCAAR is offering a new member benefit to its primary REALTOR® members, at no additional cost: Tether RE, a personal safety app. Tether RE will be available starting on April 30, 2026.

After carefully researching and evaluating the safety products on the market, GCAAR determined Tether RE to be the app that most effectively meets the unique requirements of REALTORS® in Montgomery County, Md. and Washington, D.C.

Why Tether RE?

Tether is a safety app that typically includes a lookup feature, which allows users to do reverse phone, address searches, and criminal/sex offender background checks.

However, using a lookup feature in Montgomery County, Md. and Washington, D.C. comes with distinct legal risks that do not apply to other jurisdictions in our area, including Virginia and other parts of Maryland.

If you've taken a fair housing class, you're aware of the risks of denying housing opportunities to someone because of their race, religion or any other protected characteristic. And there are even more specific laws in [D.C.](#) and [Montgomery County](#) that restrict how and when someone's criminal history may be reviewed. **By using the lookup feature of a safety app, REALTORS® in our region run the risk of violating the law and being sued, or disciplined by the real estate commissions - and face financial risks.**

To protect our members, GCAAR's Tether RE member benefit does **not** include a lookup feature. However, the app does provide you with physical safety assistance, not only when showing properties, but for peace of mind wherever you are.

How you can use Tether RE

The Tether RE app includes the following features:

- 24/7 live safety monitoring with immediate response, so you're never alone during showings, open houses or client meetings.

- SOS alerts and proximity timers that trigger help if you don't leave an appointment within the scheduled appointment time.
- Sensors that detect sudden impact, struggles or falls and automatically initiate safety protocols.
- Navigation tools to help you and your clients find an optimal route from one appointment to the next – plus, turn-by-turn navigation and a “follow-me” option that you can share with your clients and customers.
- Automatic mileage tracking for easy tax reporting.
- Easy, in-app photo-capturing function for receipts to help you efficiently track your expenses.

Tether RE is an all-in-one app, designed to boost your physical safety and enhance your productivity. We hope you'll enjoy this valuable new member benefit from GCAAR!