BILL'S HOME TECH

Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

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Share Your Location With Family the Easy Way

Let your family see you're safe — and see them — with a setting you control

Plain-English tech help from:
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Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

Location sharing lets your family see you are safe — and lets you see them — on a map, with you in full control. Between iPhones, use the Find My app's People tab: Share My Location, pick the person, and choose an hour, the day, or ongoing. For any mix of phones, use Google Maps: tap your profile picture, then Location sharing.

You see your family on the same screen. You choose exactly who, you can share just temporarily, and you can stop in one tap any time — they only see a map dot, nothing else. The iPhone “Check In” feature can even tell family automatically when you arrive.

Only ever share with people you truly know.

1 The Short Version

Location sharing lets a family member see where you are on a map — and you can see them. It is a two-way comfort: your daughter knows you made it to your appointment, and you can tell at a glance that she landed safely on her trip. You choose exactly who you share with, you can share for just an hour or ongoing, and you can turn it off whenever you like. Nobody else can see you, and no stranger is involved.

- You control who sees your location, and you can stop sharing any time.
- Share for an hour, for the day, or ongoing — your choice.
- It works between iPhones (Find My) and through Google Maps on any phone.
- It is a comfort and a safety net, not surveillance — you hold the switch.

> **TIP**
>
> The most reassuring setup for most families is ongoing sharing between you and one or two close family members. They can glance and see you are fine, and you can see them — without anyone having to call to check in.

2 Why It's Worth Doing

Location sharing quietly solves several everyday worries. It saves the "are you home yet?" phone calls, it helps you find each other in a busy parking lot or at the fair, and — most importantly — it means that if you ever did not answer your phone, a family member could see where you are and make sure you are all right.

It also works both ways, which is the part people come to love. You are not just being watched over; you can see that your far-away grandchildren got to school, or that your spouse is on the way home, all without interrupting anyone.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> This is one of the gentlest safety nets there is for older adults living independently. It asks nothing of you day to day, but it is there the one time it matters.

3 You Are Always in Control

Before the how-to, the most important thing to understand: you hold the switch at all times. This is not something done to you — it is something you choose and can undo in seconds.

- Only the specific people you pick can see you — no one else, ever.
- You can stop sharing with someone at any moment, and they are simply removed.
- You can share temporarily — say, just while traveling — and it ends on its own.
- The person sees a map dot, not your messages, photos, or anything else private.

> **TIP**
> If sharing ever feels like too much, you can turn it all off in one tap. Knowing that makes it easy to try — there is no commitment and nothing to undo later if you change your mind.

4 Share Between iPhones (Find My)

If you and your family all use iPhones, the built-in Find My app shares location beautifully, with no extra app to install.

1. Open the Find My app and tap the People tab at the bottom.
2. Tap "Share My Location" (or the + button, then Share My Location).
3. Type the family member's name or number and tap Send.
4. Choose how long: for One Hour, Until End of Day, or Share Indefinitely.

GOOD TO KNOW

When they accept, Find My usually asks if they would like to share back, so it becomes two-way with a tap. You will then both see each other on the People tab's map.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

5 Share Through Google Maps (Any Phone)

Google Maps shares location between any phones — iPhone or Android, in any mix — which makes it the easy choice when the family has both kinds.

1. Open the Google Maps app and tap your little profile picture in the top corner.
2. Choose "Location sharing."
3. Tap to share, pick how long (for a set time, or “until you turn this off”), and choose the family member.
4. They get a link or notification and can see you on their map; ask them to share back the same way.

TIP

Google Maps is the great equalizer — it does not matter whether your family carries iPhones or Androids. Everyone can see everyone through the same familiar map app.

6 See Where Your Family Is

The other half of the comfort is glancing to see that your people are where you would expect. It is the same app, the other tab.

- iPhone (Find My): open the People tab to see everyone sharing with you on a map.
- Google Maps: open Location sharing to see the family members who share with you.
- Tap a person to see their address, and even get directions to them.
- A little label often shows where they are — "Home," "Work" — at a glance.

GOOD TO KNOW

You do not have to stare at it. Most people glance once in a while, or only when something prompts a thought — "I wonder if she made it home." A quick look, and your mind is at ease.

7 A Gentle Check-In Without Sharing Full-Time

If ongoing sharing feels like more than you want, there are lighter touches that still offer reassurance.

- Send your location just once in a message: in Messages, tap the + or share button and choose "Send My Current Location."
- Share for only an hour while you are out, so it ends by itself.
- Use the "Check In" feature on iPhone, which tells a family member automatically when you arrive somewhere — and alerts them if you are delayed.

> **TIP**
> The iPhone “Check In” is a thoughtful one: tell it you are heading home, and it quietly lets your daughter know when you arrive — or nudges her if you are running unexpectedly late.

8 Stop Sharing Any Time

Turning it off is just as easy as turning it on, and worth knowing so you feel fully in control.

1. iPhone (Find My): People tab, tap the person, scroll down, and choose “Stop Sharing My Location.”
2. Google Maps: Location sharing, tap the person, and choose to stop.
3. To stop everything at once, you can turn off location sharing entirely in the app's settings.
4. The person is simply removed and sees nothing further — no awkward message is sent.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Stopping with one person does not affect the others. You can keep sharing with your spouse while ending it with anyone else, all independently.

9 A Word on Privacy and Battery

Two small worries people have, both easily answered.

- Privacy: only the people you chose can see you; the companies are not showing your location to anyone else, and you can stop any time.
- Battery: location sharing uses a little battery, but modern phones handle it easily — it is not something most people notice.
- If battery is tight, temporary sharing (an hour, or a trip) uses even less.
- Keep your phone's software up to date so the sharing features stay reliable.

WATCH OUT

Only ever share your location with people you truly know and trust — your actual family. If anyone you do not know asks you to “share your location” through a link or a message, do not; that is a trick, not a family feature.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

10 Set It Up With One Family Member, Step by Step

The easiest way to begin is with just one trusted person — a spouse or a child — so you can see how it feels before adding anyone else. Here is the whole thing, start to finish.

1. Decide together which app to use: Find My if you both have iPhones, Google Maps if the phones are a mix.
2. In the app, choose to share your location with that one person and send the invitation.
3. Ask them to accept and to share back, so you can each see the other.
4. Open the People or Location-sharing screen and confirm you can see each other's dot on the map.

TIP

Start with one person and “Share Indefinitely” (ongoing). Once you see how simple and unobtrusive it is, you can add a second family member — or decide one is plenty.

11 What Each Person Can and Cannot See

It is worth being clear about exactly what sharing reveals, because the answer is reassuringly little — only where you are, nothing more.

- They see: a dot on a map showing roughly where you are, and sometimes a label like “Home.”
- They do NOT see: your messages, your photos, your calls, your web browsing, or anything you type.
- They cannot control your phone or hear you — it is a map dot, not a listening device.
- Only the specific people you invited see anything at all; no stranger and no company is watching.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> This is the point that puts most minds at ease: sharing your location shares your location and nothing else. Your private messages and photos stay completely private.

12 Keep an Eye on Battery and Notifications

Two small practicalities keep location sharing smooth and worry-free day to day.

- Battery: sharing uses only a little power; modern phones handle it without you noticing.
- If your battery runs low, your dot may stop updating — that usually means a dead phone, not trouble.
- Your phone may occasionally remind you that an app is using your location; that is normal and good — it is keeping you informed.
- Keep the app (Find My or Google Maps) up to date so sharing stays reliable.

TIP

If a family member's dot has not moved in a long while, the most likely reason by far is a phone that is off or out of battery — not an emergency. A quick call usually clears it up.

13 In a Real Emergency

The quiet reason many families set this up is the rare day it truly matters — a fall, a sudden illness, or simply not being able to reach someone. Location sharing turns a frightening unknown into a known address.

- If you do not answer, a family member can see where you are and send help to the right place.
- Modern phones also have Emergency SOS — holding the side buttons calls for help and can alert your emergency contacts with your location.
- Some phones detect a hard fall and offer to call for help on their own.
- Setting an emergency contact and a Medical ID on the phone means first responders can find vital information.

GOOD TO KNOW

You do not have to set up everything at once. Location sharing with one family member is a gentle, powerful first step — and it is often the one that matters most on the day you hope never comes.

14 When to Call Bill

None of this is a test, and there is no prize for struggling through it alone. Most of these tricks take a minute once you know where to look, and this guide gets you there. But if a setting has moved on your version of the phone, or you would simply rather have someone set it up beside you and show you once, that is exactly the kind of visit I make.

I come to you here in Portage County, sit down beside you, and set these up on your own phone or tablet so they work the way you like. I show you each step slowly, write down the few that matter, and make sure you can do it yourself afterward. No rush, no jargon, and no question is too small.

- You want location sharing set up two-way between you and your family, on whatever phones they have.
- Your family uses a mix of iPhones and Androids and you are not sure which method to use.
- You want the iPhone “Check In” feature set up so family knows when you arrive.
- You would like it all explained and set up so you feel completely in control of who sees what.
- You would simply rather have it set up correctly the first time, with someone showing you how. Call Bill at (330) 200-8042.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this handy. You choose who, and for how long — always.

I want to...	Do this...
Share between iPhones	Find My People Share My Location pick person & duration
Share across any phones	Google Maps profile picture Location sharing
See where family is	Find My People tab, or Google Maps Location sharing
Share just once	Messages + / share Send My Current Location
Tell family when I arrive	iPhone Messages Check In
Stop sharing	Tap the person Stop Sharing My Location
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Whenever you're ready, I'll come to your home anywhere in Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities, at your pace. Too far for a house call? I also help remotely. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042. — Bill

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