

SAFETY TIPS

to prevent

MISSING CHILDREN



Prepared By

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The enclosed guidelines are provided for the use of parents or guardians to help prevent the abduction of a child and if an abduction should occur, to increase the chances of a recovery. Certainly every preventive idea is not presented in this text, but rather general purpose guidelines to help initiate the preventive process. Parents and guardians should evaluate these guidelines and design other child safety techniques that may be needed for their unique situations. When reading or following these guidelines one must remember they are general purpose guidelines and not intended to apply to every missing child case.

TEACH YOUR CHILD

Their full name, address and phone number.

Your full name, where you work and phone number.

How to use the phone, including dialing the operator and how to make a long distance call.

How to say "NO". They do not have to obey strangers.

Not to approach a car, even if the adult is signaling.

Play or walk in a group and not alone.

A password that just your family knows. Explain the word is a secret and NOT to go with anyone who does not know the "secret word".

To scream "HELP" if they are in trouble. If grabbed, to scream, kick and try to break loose.

Never open the door to strangers. If a delivery is being made, have them leave it on the porch.

Always tell you where they are going and when they will return. If plans change, they should call home.

The policemen and firemen are their friends. Go to them when they need help.

"TIPS FOR PARENTS"

Know the whereabouts of your child.

Never leave your child alone in an unattended vehicle.

Never let your children out of your sight while shopping in a store or mall.

Never let your child go to a public restroom alone.

Know the names, addresses and parents' names of your child's friends.

Take pictures of your child at least once a year. If under age of two, four times a year.

Write a detailed description of your child. Include height, weight, age, eye and hair color, birthmarks, scars, moles or any "different" physical characteristics your child may have. CHILD-I-DENT FORMS for this purpose are available through your state and local law enforcement agencies.

Make sure physical and dental records can be made available.

Know your child's blood type, broken bones, health problems, prescription medications and allergies.

Have your child fingerprinted by a police officer or trained volunteer.

Notice what your child is wearing when he/she leaves for school or play.

PARENT OR GUARDIAN RESPONSE TO A MISSING CHILD

Check immediate area, friends and family to determine the child has not stopped off to play or visit.

Contact the local police and provide a complete description of the child, including physical description, birthdate, school and grade, medical and dental records or doctor's names, circumstances surrounding the disappearance, and the complete name and description of the abductor and vehicle description if known.

Record the name and badge number of officer who takes the report. Report only to a sworn police officer, not a civilian employee.

Request the case number of the missing persons report.

Ask that all data regarding the missing child be entered into the Law Information Network of Kentucky (LINK) computer, National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer, and the Kentucky Missing Child Information Center.

Wait 24-hours and then check with the police to determine that the information has been entered. Ask to see the printout if available.

If the information has not been entered into the LINK and NCIC computers then contact the Kentucky Missing Child Information Center and sign an affidavit that the local agency is in non-compliance with the law.

Request that you be kept informed on a regular basis of the status of the investigation.

Obtain dental and medical records, including x-rays. Furnish them to the police and request they be entered into the computer system.