

Child Abduction First Responding Officer Quick Reference Guide

**This checklist is a suggested guide
but is not all-inclusive.**

**Local jurisdictions may have
protocols with varying
requirements.**

Sponsored by The California Child Abduction
Task Force and the California Governor's
Office of Emergency Services



VICTIM INFORMATION

- Y/N Is child within at-risk age group?
 - Y/N Knows own address and phone number?
 - Y/N Knows how to call 911?
 - Y/N Limited or Non-English speaking?
- What language does child speak?
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- Y/N Immediate health concerns?
 - Y/N Requires medications?
 - Y/N Developmental Delays?
 - Y/N Physical Disability?
 - Y/N Does child abuse substances?
 - Y/N Physical, emotional, sexual abuse?
 - Y/N Cell phone and social media accounts? user names: _____
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ABDUCTOR/SUSPECT INFORMATION

- Local/State criminal history
- Registered sex offender
- History of reported/unreported acts of violence, including Domestic Violence
- Prior threats to abduct children
- Mental illness/medications
- Substance abuse
- Unreported threats of harm/self-harm
- Former victim of crime (violent/sexual)
- Recently terminated/quit employment
- Custody battle/recent divorce or separation
- Ties to friends/family out of state/country
- Has passport

CONTACTS & RESOURCES

DOJ Missing and Unidentified
Persons Section **(MUPS)** (916) 210-3119
24 Hour Hotline (800) 222-FIND

California Highway Patrol (800)TELL-CHP
CHP (835-5247)

AMBER Alert (ENTAC)
(916) 843-4199*

*Not for public use/law enforcement only

FBI

Los Angeles (310) 477-6565
Sacramento (916) 746-7000
San Diego (858) 320-1800
San Francisco (415) 553-7400

National Center for Missing & Exploited
Children **(NCMEC)** (800) 843-5678

District Attorney Child Abduction Unit:

Child Protection Services:

Missing Children's Organizations:

INITIAL INVESTIGATION

- Interview parent/guardian/reporting party
- Verify child is missing
- Obtain missing child's name, biological info, monikers/nicknames
- Description of child; *collect photos*: Be sure to ask about photos on cell phones/mobile devices
- Identify the circumstances & type of disappearance
- What was happening with the child prior to disappearance; what was their emotional state?
- Perform a thorough and detailed search of the child's residence, even if they were reported missing from another location
- Search all locations where a child can hide
- Interview individuals who last had contact with the child
- Inquire if the child has access to the internet and evaluate it's potential role
- Determine when, where, and by whom the missing child was last seen
- Obtain detailed description of the missing child, abductor, and any vehicles used
- Ensure confirmed information about the abductor is entered into the NCIC's Wanted Person's File.

Make an initial assessment based on available information about the type of incident:

- Non-Family Abduction
- Family Abduction
- Runaway
- Lost
- Injured
- Special Needs - children on the autism spectrum may be drawn to large bodies of water. Immediately call for additional responders, search nearby bodies of water, and notify a supervisor.

CRIME SCENE & CANVASS

- Research original and last seen locations
- Establish and secure the crime scene
 - Immediate scene and surrounding area
 - Limit access to and from residence
 - Freeze or seize computers and electronic devices
- Establish a command post away from the scene
- Canvass neighborhood and note all witnesses, residential occupants, vehicles, security cameras.
- Additional personnel and supervision
 - Separate supervision for each scene, CP, and canvass
 - Dedicated SAR teams
 - Dedicated canvass teams
- Obtain and note consent to search home or building where incident took place even if the premises have been previously searched by family members or others.

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Potential unwilling victim of "Marriage Abduction"
- Victim seen as rightful property of abducting subject(s)
- Cultural marriage relationship
- Parents/guardians members of a religious cult, militia or other extremist group
- Is missing child being trafficked

WITHOUT DELAY BROADCAST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION TO:

- Police communication channels
- Patrol officers
- Other law enforcement agencies
- Consider AMBER ALERT
- Enter missing child's information into MUPS/NCIC within 2 HOURS
- PIO
- Press release/media
- County Alert System
- Social media blast

*CONTINUALLY UPDATE
INFORMATION AND BROADCAST*

Determine the need for external, rapid deployment support:

- FBI Child Abduction Rapid Deployment (CARD) Team
- Local or regional Child Abduction Response Teams
- NCMEC's Team Adam

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