



Ohio AMBER Alert

INVESTIGATIVE CHECK LIST FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

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IF THERE IS AN EYEWITNESS TO THE ABDUCTION:

Upon Receipt of Complaint

- Immediately broadcast information over the police frequency to alert all officers of possible abduction, to include victim description, suspect description and vehicle description.

Upon Arrival at the Scene

- Confirm and “fine tune” information provided by witness
- Broadcast updated information regarding victim/abductor/vehicle description over all available police frequencies in area, including LEADS
- Confirm involuntary disappearance with caregiver/parent
- Obtain latest photograph available of child/suspect/vehicle for broadcast
- Request additional personnel
- Contact the local FBI office or BCI for assistance, as necessary
- Locate, separate and interview all witnesses
- Secure area where victim was last observed and treat as a crime scene

IF THERE IS NO EYEWITNESS TO THE ABDUCTION:

Gather Information to Make Initial Assessment

Factors to Consider:

- Victim’s last known activity
- Victim’s age
- Witness accounts
- History of disappearance
- Previous similar events report in neighborhood

Investigative Steps:

- Conduct search of immediate area where child went missing, as well as the child’s home, to include all outbuildings and vehicles, anywhere a child could hide or be hid
- Locate, separate and interview all witnesses
- Develop a “Window of Opportunity”
- Secure area where victim was last observed and treat it as a crime scene
- Recognize caregiver/parent may have false-reported as a way to cover for other crime committed against the child

IF THE INFORMATION COLLECTED POINTS TO A LEGITIMATE CHILD ABDUCTION:

Determine if the AMBER Alert Criteria are met.

AMBER Alert Criteria:

- Law enforcement confirms that the child is under 18 years of age
- Law enforcement believes the abduction poses a credible threat of immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death to the child
- There is sufficient descriptive information about the child, the suspect, and/or the circumstances surrounding the abduction to believe that activation of the alert will help to locate the child
- A law enforcement agency determines that the child is not a runaway and has not been abducted as a result of a family abduction, unless the investigation determines that the child is in immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death.

If the criteria are met, ACTIVATE THE AMBER PLAN NOW!

The AMBER activation should be made in accordance with the local and state AMBER Plans.

In all missing children cases, consider the use of the following listed resources.

REMEMBER, IF THE INFORMATION DOES NOT MEET THE AMBER CRITERIA, YOU CAN STILL:

- Work with the media to get the word out
- Follow good, sound investigative strategies, as we did before AMBER
- Enter the missing juvenile through LEADS and NCIC
- Send a LEADS administration broadcast to all Ohio law enforcement terminals. If there is an AMBER Alert, enter the information on the LEADS AMBER screen
- Send a National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) broadcast message to adjacent states
- Contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to report the missing child case at 1-800-843-5678. This is a 24-hour hotline.
- Contact "A Child is Missing" at 1-888-875-2246; pager: 954-492-4778; or fax: 954-763-4569 with the child's last known location so that calls can be placed to residences in the area
- Use LOCATOR, Child Alert Foundation, TRAK or another program to create a poster
- Call the Attorney General's "Ohio Missing Children's Clearing House" at 1-800-325-5604
- Reevaluate criteria as information changes

Other Considerations

- Seal/protect area of child's home where personal items can be located - such as hairbrush, toothbrush, soiled underwear, fingerprints - that can be used for later search and/or identification purposes
- Initiate neighborhood canvas using standardized canvas sheets in area where child was last observed and interview **ALL** persons
- Initiate roadblock canvas in area where child was last observed
- Set up liaison with victim's family
- Bring in canine and professional search assistance
- Establish command post away from victim's home or abduction area
- Initiate trap and trace on all family telephones, as well as recording capabilities
- Establish secure, tactical telephone inside family's home
- Maintain activity log
- Assign a law enforcement officer to handle liaison with media
- Implement leads-management system to assist in lead maintenance (such as FBI's Rapid Start software, free to law enforcement)
- Identify possible locations for all registered sex offenders, parolees, person on probation, or suspects within a designated radius of the missing child's home and place of abduction.



AMBER Plan Points of Contact

Local Emergency Alert System Activation Phone #:

State of Ohio Joint Dispatch Facility Phone #:
614-889-7150 (24-hour number)

Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee

Local/Regional AMBER Plan	614-361-1622
Ohio Emergency Management Agency	614-889-7155
Ohio State Highway Patrol	614-466-2660
Ohio Department of Transportation	614-466-2255
Attorney General's Office - Missing Children Clearinghouse	614-466-5610
State Emergency Communications Committee	419-529-5900
Federal Bureau of Investigation	614-744-2168
Buckeye State Sheriff's Association	419-562-7906
Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police	614-583-5156
Broadcast Industry	614-228-4052
Victim's Advocate	419-468-1989

Media POC: Robert C. Glenn, Chief of Public Affairs
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
614-799-3695

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