



Steps to Take if Your Child is Missing (includes lost, abducted and runaway children)

IF YOUR CHILD --

Is Missing from Home or someone else's home, search the house (closets, in and under beds, inside old refrigerators, cars or other places a child could crawl into or hide, etc.) and check with neighbors, friends and others.

Disappears while Shopping or at some other public place, notify security and/or store manager.

Act Immediately

Contact your local law enforcement agency and ask an officer to respond:

File a missing person's report. Request that your child's description be entered into the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer. Provide a recent photo of the child and a description including name, date of birth, social security number, height, weight, hair and eye color and unique identifiers such as scars, birthmarks, tattoos, pierced ears, and braces. Also list medical needs and any other special circumstances.

Contact The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse at 1-800-325-5604 to:

File a supplemental missing child report. Staff members will then coordinate with the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation to verify child's entry into NCIC, send brochures and other materials, assist law enforcement with poster preparation and other services upon request and network with other state clearinghouses and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Contact The National Center For Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-THE-LOST (843-5678) to:

File a report and to enlist their services.

Contact The National Runaway Switchboard at 1-800-621-4000 if your child is a runaway to:

Ask if the child has left a message, and leave a message for your child. Also, contact runaway shelters in Ohio (contact this

agency or The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse for Ohio runaway shelter locations).

Things to Remember When Filing a Report:

- Anyone can report a missing child. If you are suspicious that a child might be missing, contact your local law enforcement agency.
- There is no law requiring a waiting period for reporting the missing child to law enforcement or for entry into NCIC.
- If you are reporting that your child is missing, proof of custody may be required prior to filing a report with law enforcement.

