

## 12.912 CHILD ABDUCTION/AMBER ALERT PLAN

### **References:**

Procedure 12.400 – Incident and Miscellaneous Reporting  
 Procedure 12.910 – Missing Persons  
 Ohio Revised Code – Section 5502.52 Statewide Emergency Alert Program Regarding  
 Abducted Children

### **Definitions:**

**Child** - an individual under eighteen years of age.

**Dangerous environment** - a relative term that may depend on the age and development of the child.

**Emergency Alert System (EAS)** - a four part message system. The header defines the nature, location and the agency that originated the emergency message. The two-tone signal, transmitted for a minimum of eight seconds, provides an audio alert to audiences that emergency information is about to be sent. The audio and/or video message is transmitted to the audience. The end of message signal is given.

**Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's)** - an agency in the United States, typically county or city controlled, responsible for answering 9-1-1 calls for emergency assistance from police, fire, and ambulance services.

### **Purpose:**

To use all available community resources to facilitate the successful recovery of an abducted child.

To establish partnerships with television/radio media in order to immediately broadcast critical information within the tri-state area using the EAS.

To establish a partnership with the Advanced Regional Traffic Interactive Management and Information System (ARTIMIS) to disseminate descriptive information utilizing the Dynamic Message Signs (DMS).

To establish a partnership with Lamar Advertising and Norton Outdoor Advertising, to disseminate descriptive and photographic information to the public utilizing Digital Billboards for AMBER Alert activations.

### **Policy:**

Department personnel will respond to all calls of child abduction promptly and safely.

Department personnel will thoroughly investigate all reports of critical missing and missing children to determine if the child has possibly been abducted.

Department personnel will work in partnership with the media and the community to locate abducted children, return them to safety, and apprehend the abductor.

**Information:**

**AMBER Alert Plan** - **A**merica's **M**issing: **B**roadcast **E**mergency **R**esponse is named for a 9-year-old girl who was kidnapped by a stranger and later found dead. In response to that tragedy, area media has agreed to repeat news bulletins about abducted children hoping the bulletins might help save the life of a child.

In abductions, the first three hours after the child is abducted are the most critical. Broadcast radio, television, DMS, and Digital Billboards present a timely and vast medium in which to alert the citizens of the entire metropolitan area.

This plan has been developed in partnership with Cincinnati based media agencies, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hamilton County Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Norton Outdoor Advertising and Lamar Advertising will disseminate the AMBER Alert information on their Digital Billboards exclusively for the first hour following an alert activation. After the first hour, the AMBER Alert information will continue to be displayed in the advertising loop, along with other posted advertisements.

**Procedure:****A. First officer on the Scene Responsibilities**

1. Assist the on scene or responding supervisor in determining if child abduction has occurred.
  - a. Obtain sufficient descriptive information about the child, including a recent photograph.
    - 1) Photographs obtained by the first officer on the scene must be relayed to the Criminal Investigation Section (CIS)/ Personal Crimes Squad (PCS) supervisor immediately to ensure rapid dissemination to broadcast media sources.
  - b. Obtain descriptive information of the abductor, manner and direction of escape, and other pertinent data.
  - c. Conduct consensual searches of any locations where the abducted child could reasonably be (i.e. residence, babysitter's house, relative's house). Refer to Procedure 12.700, Search Warrants/Consent to Search.
2. Complete necessary reports. Refer to Procedure 12.910, Missing Persons for the proper handling of the initial investigation.

**B. Supervisor Responsibilities**

1. Immediately respond to all child abduction calls.
2. Conduct a thorough investigation to determine if any of the below listed criteria have been satisfied:
  - a. The supervisor concludes, based on the totality of the circumstances, the probability exists that the child has been abducted.

- b. There is credible information that suggests the child was forcibly or intentionally removed or lured away from the location and there is a threat of immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death to the child.
  - c. The abducted child is a potential victim of foul play, sexual exploitation, or is in a dangerous environment.
  - d. The abducted child is believed to be with people who may endanger the child's welfare.
  - e. An investigation has taken place which eliminates all other alternative explanations for the whereabouts of the child.
  - f. The child is not a runaway and has not been abducted as the result of a child custody dispute, unless the dispute poses a credible threat of immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death to the child.
3. Upon the supervisor's determination that child abduction has occurred:
- a. Gather information for Sections II, III, and IV of the Form 304A, Child Abduction/AMBER Alert Plan Form.
  - b. Contact an Emergency Communication Center (ECC) supervisor to relay the information and activate the AMBER Alert Plan.
4. If a crime scene is identified, initiate crime scene control and evidence preservation.
5. Establish separate staging areas for responding officers and media. The staging area will not be located in the abducted child's home.
6. Notify a PCS supervisor to respond. If a PCS supervisor is not working, a CIS supervisor will respond.
- a. Ensure all collected photographs are immediately relayed to CIS/PCS for rapid dissemination to broadcast media sources.
- C. The ECC supervisor will:
- 1. Collect all information necessary to complete a Form 304A and contact the media voice mailbox system.
  - 2. Initiate an All County Broadcast (ACB).
  - 3. Initiate an information page advising activation of the AMBER Alert.
  - 4. Activate the Communicator to notify Area Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's).
  - 5. Notify ARTIMIS to activate an AMBER Alert utilizing the DMS.
    - a. ARTIMIS will activate the DMS with an AMBER Alert and a description of the vehicle used and/or the license plate (this may be a partial plate).

- 1) ARTIMIS will post the AMBER Alert message on the DMS for a period of five (5) hours or until directed by the PCS supervisor.
  6. Notify Lamar Advertising, via an email to the AMBER Alert Notification Group. Provide all required information, including the scanned/electronic photographs. Contact Lamar Advertising by telephone to confirm receipt of the email. (Lamar Advertising is the central contact point for utilization of all Digital Billboards.)
  7. Generate a teletype message to the affected areas.
- D. Personal Crimes Squad /Criminal Investigations Section Supervisor will:
1. Respond to the scene and assume responsibility for the investigation.
  2. Ensure all graphic information (victim photo, suspect photo, and suspect vehicle photo) is scanned as an attachment and sent by email to the ECC supervisor and attached in the RMS case folder. This **must** be accomplished as quickly as possible within the first hour of initial contact with the complainant.
  3. Ensure PCS personnel duplicate any photographs of the abducted child for radio and television station notification.
  4. Ensure PCS personnel involved in the investigation maintain a log detailing all police actions taken to locate the abducted child.
  5. Ensure PCS personnel complete Form 304, Missing Report, and enter the information into the Law Enforcement Automated Data System/National Crime Information Center (LEADS/NCIC) computer files.
- E. Upon confirmation of the location of an abducted child, the CIS/PCS supervisor will:
1. Cancel the LEADS/NCIC teletype.
  2. Ensure a Form 311, Incident Closure Report, is completed.
  3. Contact an ECC supervisor to:
    - a. Call the media voice mailbox system and cancel the AMBER Alert.
    - b. Advise ARTIMUS to deactivate the AMBER Alert on the DMS.
    - c. Advise Lamar Advertising the child has been located and the AMBER Alert is cancelled.
    - d. Cancel the ACB.
    - e. Initiate an information page advising deactivation of the AMBER Alert.
    - f. Activate the Communicator to notify PSAP's of the AMBER Alert cancellation.
    - g. Cancel the teletype message sent to the effected area.
  4. Ensure all original photographs are returned to the respective owner.