



GUIDELINES FOR VICTIMS FAMILY RESPONSE

THERE IS NO CASE THAT CAN'T BE SOLVED

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When a victim has gone missing, may it be from a kidnapping, runaway, or an undetermined manner, notify the local police immediately. Supply the dispatcher of all available information. File a missing person's report. Contact the National Center For Missing Children. Insist that the FBI be called in on the case. Be prepared for many hours of questioning.

Immediately start a diary with all the information available, names, times, telephone numbers of police and any other officials. This diary must include all activities of the officials involved. Be precise; all information is important no matter how insignificant it may seem to you. The only victim is the person who is gone. Be proactive with your case, IT IS YOUR CHILD; The parents, family, etc., are not victims.

Form an action committee consisting of 3-5 trusted family members and/or friends to assist in finding the missing victim. Retain a lawyer. If the investigators are not experienced street cops, you (mother and father) will be suspects. **FACTS AND FACTS ONLY** (overt and covert), not statistics, should be used by police to determine what happened. A politically correct, feel-good, do-good investigation is a waste of time and manpower.

Have a good working relation with the press, you may need them. Do as many TV, newspaper, and other interviews as possible. When your child is missing, it is crucial to get the information out with photos. After a few weeks, when leads and tips start to dry up, the media will pull back. It is business; it is not personal. It is their job to report NEWS; it is your job to share with them anything you can safely give that is NEW NEWS for them to report. The TV shows are so important. For many parents it is difficult to do them, but if you keep in your mind that YOUR CHILD IS THE TRUE VICTIM, you can muster strength to do what is necessary.

If possible, contact another parent who has had a missing/kidnapped child and ask for help, if they do not contact you first. LISTEN TO WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TO PUBLICIZE THEIR MISSING CHILD. If you can avoid being medicated for the stress and trauma... do so. The meds will cloud your thinking and numb you to the point that it interferes with your decisions. Collect all photos of your missing child so they are in one place and easy to access. Start working on a Missing Person's Flyer/Poster, including the child's name, description, any birth marks, and a couple photos of the child, eye color, what the child was last seen wearing, and your or police contact information. Find a printer who will work with you on cost for the printing of the flyers.

At no time accept the statement from authorities that it is an ongoing investigation and they cannot tell you what is happening. There is no law against them keeping the parents up to date. The first 72 hours are crucial, after that you must be prepared for the long haul. The police may start to also pull back after a few weeks. They have to work on tips and leads; there is plenty to do, but as new information comes in it is your right as a parent to be informed. Sometimes law enforcement will attempt to keep families in the dark.

One week from the exact time of the disappearance the action committee must do a canvas of businesses along major routes within a 1 hour travel time distance. This is done to determine if any unusual activity occurred and if the police did a canvas.

Do not feel you must be friends with the investigators, it serves no useful purpose. It is their responsibility and duty to do a full investigation. Always act in a professional manner and insist that the investigators do the same.

When you become a suspect, go on the offense. Do not allow the investigators to intimidate you. Professional and competent investigators will not resort to this type of harassment.

Do not take a lie detector test; it serves no purpose that will help your case. You have the right to refuse a "polygraph" test if you so choose.