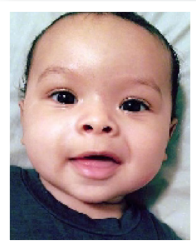
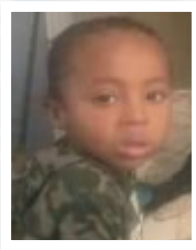


**ANNUAL
REPORT**

**2020 MISSING
CHILDREN
CLEARINGHOUSE**



DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Nylo Lattimore

Lost, injured or missing

Cincinnati, Ohio

Missing since Dec. 4, 2020



Went missing at: age 3
Current age: 3
Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: Black
Then height: 3'2"
Then weight: 31 lbs
Hair color: Black
Eye color: Brown

Nylo's stroller was found in the Ohio River near where the body of his mother, Nyteisha Lattimore, was found. A suspect has been indicted in Nylo's presumed death, but he is still missing, despite police and volunteers searching more than 100 miles of the river.

If you have any information, contact the Cincinnati Police Department at 513-765-1212.

Joanna H. Pacheco

Endangered runaway

Columbus, Ohio

Missing since June 23, 2018



Went missing at: age 14
Current age: 17
Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Then height: 5'6"
Then weight: 140 lbs
Hair color: Black
Eye color: Black



Age progression

Joanna Hernandez-Pacheco was last seen at St. James Catholic Church wearing a black shirt, gray vest, blue pants and black shoes. She may be in need of medical attention.

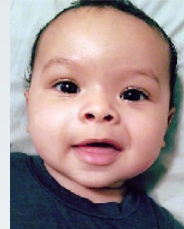
If you have any information, contact the Columbus Police Department at 614-645-4545.

Deklon Ford

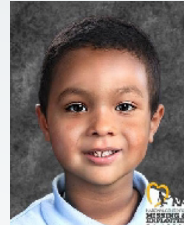
Abduction — Family

Columbus, Ohio

Missing since May 6, 2015



Went missing at: age 8 months
Current age: 6 years
Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: Biracial (black and white)
Then height: 2'3"
Then weight: 35 lbs
Hair color: Brown
Eye color: Brown



Age progression

Deklon and his mother, Brittany Ford, now 34, are known to have traveled out of Ohio, including in a 2007 white Nissan Versa with Georgia license plates, which has since

been located. They were last known to be in the area of Hardin, Montana.

If you have any information, contact the Columbus Police Department at 614-645-4545.

Edward Melanson

Abduction — family

Hubbard, Ohio

Missing since Aug. 9, 2007



Went missing at: age 4
Current age: 17
Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: Biracial (Asian and white)
Then height: 3'6"
Then weight: 36 lbs
Hair color: Brown
Eye color: Brown

Edward was abducted by his noncustodial mother, Kyong-Mi Lee, now 49. They may be in South Korea, and he may go by Haneul Lee. Edward has a mark on his right lower cheek.

If you have any information, contact the Hubbard Police Department at 330-534-1133.

For more information, visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingChildren.



DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 25, 2021

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President, Ohio Senate
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Dear Colleagues,

When children go missing, we rely upon law enforcement to locate them and reunite them with their loved ones. In 2020, the vast majority – 97.2% – of missing children were recovered safely by year’s end. This statistic is a credit to the dedication, quick thinking and compassion employed by law enforcement at a moment’s notice. Without a doubt, those same professionals are motivated by the pursuit of the children who have not yet been found.

My office is committed to protecting the unprotected throughout Ohio. To that end, we will always do everything in our power to bring missing people home to their families. The Bureau of Criminal Investigation’s Missing Persons Unit, a unit of my office, oversees the Missing Children Clearinghouse.

The clearinghouse compiles data on missing children, assists local law enforcement and victims’ families, and works with the Ohio Departments of Education and Job and Family Services to educate and aid law enforcement, teachers, parents and children.

This report details the work done in 2020 by the Missing Children Clearinghouse to recover and protect children. Given that missing children make up a significant portion of the population vulnerable to exploitation and manipulation by human traffickers and other predators, we know just how vital this work is.

For more information, please visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons or call 800-325-5604.

Yours,

Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General

Introduction and overview

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse was established by the Ohio General Assembly in 1993 as a central repository for statistics and information about missing children throughout the state. It serves as an investigative resource to help law enforcement and families locate missing children. It also makes educational information available and coordinates training, collaboration and information sharing in Ohio.

The Ohio Missing Persons Unit, housed within the attorney general's Bureau of Criminal Investigation, operates the Missing Children Clearinghouse (MCCH). Because it is part of BCI's Investigation Division, the Missing Persons Unit can better coordinate BCI resources, facilitate the quickest possible response to missing person cases and provide immediate access to important investigative tools. In addition to focusing on missing children, the Missing Persons Unit plays an integral role in cases and issues involving missing adults, human trafficking and unidentified human remains.

The Missing Persons Unit has a 24-hour, toll-free hotline (**800-325-5604**) through which it fields questions from law enforcement, parents, community members and the media.

The Missing Persons Unit's website (www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons) is also available to provide visibility for missing person cases and as a central location for families and the public seeking resources and guidance. The site, which features details and photos of missing children and adults, allows visitors to submit tips and print posters for specific cases. It also includes links to information about Ohio's unsolved homicides and unidentified remains. To raise awareness about missing person cases, BCI utilizes social networking websites, including Facebook and Twitter.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office prints pictures and information about missing person cases on its business envelopes to increase public awareness. Two missing persons are featured on each envelope along with contact information for the Missing Persons Unit. Different individuals are featured each time a new order of envelopes is printed, with missing children and adults alternated on envelope orders.

Staff members of the Missing Persons Unit also assist law enforcement and parents by:

- Issuing Endangered Missing Child and Endangered Missing Adult Alerts.
- Collaborating with law enforcement partners on the issuance of Amber Alerts.
- Analyzing public websites and law enforcement databases to help locate children.
- Providing a free program to collect DNA from a missing person's family so the missing person can be identified.
- Providing training to law enforcement, other professionals, students and the public.
- Providing investigative guidance, resource recommendations and assistance.

When a child goes missing, parents should contact local law enforcement immediately. The clearinghouse will take a supplemental report and ensure that the child's name is entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database. Parents should also file a report with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).

2020 statistics

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse receives statistics on missing persons in Ohio whose cases have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database by law enforcement agencies.

Based on the 2020 entries, the clearinghouse documented 21,520 people reported missing in Ohio. **Of that number, 16,332 were reports of missing children**, down 2,306 from the year before. The children were 8,396 females, 7,935 males and, in one entry, the sex was unknown. Authorities reported that 97.2%, or 15,881 children, were recovered safely by the year's end. **Open source data revealed that seven Ohio children were found deceased in 2020.**

The NCIC implemented a Missing Person File in 1975 to track missing person reports across the United States. Records in the Missing Person File are retained until the individual is located or the record is canceled by the entering agency.

NCIC categories of missing persons and Ohio's 2020 case numbers

- Individuals under the age of 21 who are missing and do not meet the criteria set forth in other categories: **15,719 Ohio cases**
- Persons of any age who are missing under circumstances indicating that their physical safety may be in danger: **2,034 Ohio cases**
- Persons of any age who are missing under circumstances indicating that the disappearance may not have been voluntary (such as abductions and kidnappings): **40 Ohio cases**
- Individuals of any age who are missing and under proven physical/mental disability or who are senile, thereby subjecting them or others to personal and immediate danger: **608 Ohio cases**
- Persons of any age who are missing after a catastrophe: **2 Ohio cases**
- Missing individuals over the age of 21 who do not meet the criteria for any other category and for whom there is a reasonable safety concern: **3,117 Ohio cases**

When entering a missing person into NCIC, law enforcement agencies have the option of noting the circumstances of the disappearance, if known. About half of all missing person reports filed with NCIC contain this information.

Missing person circumstances

In cases for which circumstances were specified, these are the NCIC descriptions and Ohio's 2020 numbers:

Runaway: A child leaves home without permission and stays away overnight. **9,064 Ohio cases**

Abducted by noncustodial parent: A parent, other family member or person acting on behalf of the parent or other family member takes, keeps or conceals a child (or children), depriving another individual of his or her custody or visitation rights. Family abductions can happen before or after a court issues a custody determination. Ohio Revised Code Section 2919.23

spells out what constitutes family abduction, also known as “interference with custody,” and the accompanying penalties. Criminal statutes throughout the country vary as to the title of the offense and the conduct considered unlawful. Other terms for “family abduction” include “parental kidnapping,” “child abduction,” “child snatching” and “custodial interference.” **44 Ohio cases**

Abducted by stranger: Two scenarios qualify as nonfamily abductions. In the first, a nonfamily perpetrator takes a child using physical force or threat of bodily harm and/or detains a child in an isolated place using physical force or threat of bodily harm without lawful authority or the permission of a parent/guardian. Under this scenario, the child is taken for at least one hour. In the second scenario, the child is taken and detained, or voluntarily accompanies a nonfamily perpetrator who conceals the child’s whereabouts, demands ransom or expresses the intention to keep the child permanently. Within this category, a “stereotypical kidnapping” is defined as involving someone the child does not know, or someone of slight acquaintance, who holds the child overnight, kills the child, demands ransom or intends to keep the child permanently. **8 Ohio cases**

Adult (federally required entry): Missing person cases involving individuals older than 18 and younger than 21 must be reported to NCIC under 42 U.S. Code 5779 (c). **6 Ohio cases**

Attempted child abductions

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse works with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) to identify attempted abductions and other suspicious incidents involving child victims, to provide technical assistance and resources for law enforcement, and to raise awareness among parents and children.

In Ohio, NCMEC documented six attempted child abductions or incidents of indecent exposure involving six girls and one boy. The suspects were driving vehicles in 50% of the situations. In all reported incidents, the children were approached in public spaces such as parks, stores or walking along public streets.

Among the incidents for which the outcome is known, 67% involved children being able to walk or run away with no physical contact having occurred. Among the incidents for which the suspect’s method of attempted abduction is known, 33% used physical force or a weapon and 83% engaged the children in conversation before the incident of indecent exposure or attempted abduction. In one case, the suspect involved was a registered sex offender.

Local law enforcement is encouraged to contact NCMEC or Ohio MCCH with reports of attempted abduction, sexual assault, indecent exposure, short-term abductions (abduct and release) and any other suspicious incidents involving child victims and adults unknown to them. Please email OhioMCCH@OhioAGO.gov for more information or to report an incident in your jurisdiction.

Tools for finding missing children

Amber Alert

Ohio's statewide Amber Alert Plan was launched on Jan. 1, 2003. The program is a voluntary partnership involving law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies and the wireless communications industry to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. The goal of an Amber Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for, and safe recovery of, the child.

The inception of the Amber Alert is rooted in the national effort to publicize child abductions that followed the 1996 kidnapping and murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman of Dallas, Texas. Although named for Amber, the program's title also stands for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response.

In 2020, Ohio law enforcement issued seven Amber Alerts through the Ohio Amber Alert Plan. All of the children were recovered safely.

Thankfully, most Amber Alerts lead to the child's safe recovery. For example:

- On Monday, March 23, 2020, the Perry County Sheriff's Office issued an Amber Alert for an abducted 1-year-old female. The child was forcibly taken by her mother's boyfriend. The suspect was not the biological father, and he assaulted the mother and injured the child during the abduction. The child was later recovered safe and the suspect taken into custody.

A staff member from the Missing Persons Unit also represents the attorney general on the Amber Alert Advisory Committee along with a victim advocate and representatives from the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Ohio State Highway Patrol, FBI, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, State Emergency Communications Committee and Ohio Association of Broadcasters.

Here are the steps taken during an Ohio Amber Alert:

- Law enforcement receives the initial call of a missing child and responds to the scene.
- Law enforcement confirms that the missing child's case meets Amber Alert criteria:
 - The abducted child is younger than 18.
 - The abduction poses a credible, immediate threat of serious bodily harm or death to the child.
 - The child is not a runaway and has not been abducted as a result of a child custody dispute (unless such a dispute poses a credible, immediate threat of serious bodily harm or death to the child).
 - There is sufficient descriptive information about the child, the abductor and the circumstances to indicate that the alert will help locate the child.
- Law enforcement issues a radio broadcast to all neighboring law enforcement agencies and enters pertinent information into the NCIC database. The FBI, State Highway Patrol, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse are notified of the alert.
- The Highway Patrol and the investigating agency discuss case circumstances to verify that the case meets Amber Alert criteria. The clearinghouse also may be consulted.
- The Highway Patrol sends a statewide teletype to all Ohio law enforcement agencies alerting them to a child abduction.
- Law enforcement and broadcasters use the Emergency Alert System to air a description of the missing child and suspected abductor.
- The Highway Patrol uses clearinghouse alert software on the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway, maintained by BCI, to issue emails, faxes and cellphone text messages containing alert information. These go to all partners, including law enforcement, private and public agencies, businesses and citizens who have signed up to receive the alerts.
- The Highway Patrol activates ODOT signboards and posts information on the Ohio Amber Alert Plan website, OhioAmberPlan.org.
- The Highway Patrol disseminates the alert via Twitter. To receive these alerts, follow [@ohioamberalert](https://twitter.com/ohioamberalert).
- The Amber Alert phone number is activated. Members of the public can call **877-Amber-OH (877-262-3764)** to report a tip or listen to the Amber Alert description.
- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children sends secondary alert notifications via sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Google and Yahoo; notifies truck drivers and Uber drivers; and sends Wireless Emergency Alert messages to cellphones.
- The BCI Child Abduction Response Team coordinator contacts the investigating agency to provide BCI resources and assistance.

Endangered Missing Child Alert

This alert is designed to seek assistance for a missing child when law enforcement cannot determine whether the child was abducted but the disappearance otherwise meets all Amber Alert criteria. Once local law enforcement makes a request to the clearinghouse, an automated system alerts all Ohio law enforcement agencies about the missing child.

The Endangered Missing Child Alert provides a broadcast to law enforcement agencies in targeted areas, sends faxes and emails to the media, can activate the local Child Abduction Response Team (CART), if requested, and uses secondary notification systems to inform the public. The BCI CART coordinator also contacts the investigating agency to provide BCI assistance and resources.

The clearinghouse sends Endangered Missing Child Alerts to participating trucking companies within a local or regional area designated by law enforcement. The companies post the information — sent by fax and email — in their drivers' lounges and dispatch offices, and they include the alerts in dispatches to their drivers.

In 2020, the clearinghouse issued 10 Endangered Missing Child Alerts involving one child each. Eight children were recovered safe, and two were found deceased. In both cases where the child was not recovered safely, the cause of death was accidental drowning.

Responsibilities of law enforcement

According to Ohio Revised Code Section 2901.30, which addresses missing children cases, law enforcement must:

- Take missing children reports and investigate them promptly.
- Make a concerted effort to locate the child.
- Submit information about missing children to the NCIC immediately after a report.
- Notify the missing children's parents, guardians, custodians or caregivers of updates and of the submission of information to the NCIC.
- Notify the missing child's school to have the child's school records flagged, if appropriate.
- Notify other law enforcement agencies of missing children reports.
- Assist other law enforcement agencies in the investigation of their missing children cases.
- Obtain dental records of children missing longer than 30 days.
- Submit information on found children to the NCIC.

National Missing Children's Day

The nation marks National Missing Children's Day each May 25. Throughout Ohio, a variety of events typically take place on or around that day. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic severely curtailed coordinating events in 2020. To commemorate the day virtually, the MCCH released a video message from Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost highlighting the state's missing children data and extending gratitude for the community members who support and share in the mission of protecting Ohio's children.

In a related campaign, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) hosts the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest to create an opportunity to discuss the issue of missing and exploited children with students and to promote child safety.

The Missing Persons Unit manages the contest in Ohio and invites fifth graders to send artwork with the theme of "Bringing Our Missing Children Home." The state's first-place poster contest winner is submitted to compete in the national competition.

Ohio's winners, selected by a panel of judges assembled by the Missing Persons Unit, were:

- First place: Kendall Hummer, Midview Local, East Intermediate, Grafton
- Second place: Bryce Jamison, Midview Local, East Intermediate, Grafton
- Third place: Carolynn Below, Bataan Intermediate, Port Clinton

The Ohio winners are usually honored at the annual Attorney General's Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance, but the in-person event was canceled due to pandemic restrictions.

Collaborations

The Ohio Missing Persons Unit collaborates with many agencies and organizations to locate missing and abducted children and prevent future incidents. Among them are:

Ohio human trafficking task forces: The Missing Persons Unit aids various human trafficking task forces in Ohio – including local, state and federal law enforcement; victim advocacy agencies; and prosecutors’ offices. Staff members from the Missing Persons Unit support the task forces’ investigations, share intelligence and provide resources – efforts that help victims and bring offenders to justice.

U.S. Marshals: The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 enhanced the U.S. Marshals’ authority to assist federal, state and local law enforcement with the recovery of missing, endangered or abducted children. In 2020, two operations were conducted in Ohio to locate missing children, and they resulted in the recovery of 80 children. The Ohio MCCH also shares cases with the U.S. Marshals when there are indicators of trafficking or exploitation.

Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition: The Missing Persons Unit is a member of the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition, which works to end human trafficking through public awareness, service to trafficked persons, advocacy and resource and training support for law enforcement.

I-SEARCH: The InterState Enforcement Agencies to Recover Children Advisory Council aids in the identification and recovery of missing children. Midwestern member states are Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Project LINK: BCI is the central repository for information regarding Ohio missing persons and unidentified remains. Through BCI’s Project LINK (Linking Individuals Not Known), after a person is missing for 30 days, a relative may submit a DNA sample to be deposited into a database for comparisons with unidentified remains found throughout the country. The Project LINK program was created in 1999 under Ohio Revised Code Section 109.573. In 2020, 130 LINK cases were submitted to BCI and 112 were closed.

NamUs: The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System is the online repository for records involving missing people and unidentified human remains. The initiative, launched in 2007 by the U.S. Department of Justice, aims to reduce the number of unidentified bodies held at coroners’ and medical examiners’ offices throughout the United States. Missing-person records in the database are cross-checked with an unidentified remains database in hopes of confirming identification.

Ohio Child Abduction Response Team: A CART is designed to respond when a missing child is thought to be in immediate danger. The Ohio Attorney General’s Office – along with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Buckeye State Sheriffs’ Association – leads the Child Abduction Response Team model for Ohio. Multiple teams are located throughout the state, and they have helped recover missing children statewide.

Assistance to the public

Online resources

The Missing Persons Unit website, www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons, provides valuable information to the public, including:

- Steps to take when a child is missing.
- Photographs and printable posters to raise awareness of missing children.
- Publications.
- Safety tips.
- Links to Ohio's Amber Alert Plan, training information, other state clearinghouses and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

The public plays a vital role in the recovery of missing children through another web-based resource, the Ohio Citizen Alert Network. The critical software program notifies the public when children are abducted or missing in life-threatening circumstances. By subscribing to receive alerts on the Ohio Attorney General's website (follow the Ohio Amber Plan link at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons), you can learn of missing children alerts through text messages and emails.

Training sessions

The attorney general's Missing Persons Unit gives training presentations on Amber Alerts, other missing person alert programs, the Child Abduction Response Team, first-responder programs, child safety, reunification, human trafficking and resources for law enforcement. Early in 2020, trainings were canceled due to the COVID pandemic. Before that, the office provided four trainings to 85 law enforcement officers and dispatchers.

Assistance to law enforcement and other agencies

Training

The clearinghouse conducted four training sessions for law enforcement throughout Ohio in 2020. Officers, dispatchers and trainers received instruction on missing children investigations, safety tips for children, Amber Alert protocol and protocols for initiating other missing person alerts.

The clearinghouse provides three investigative manuals to law enforcement upon request:

- “Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigations and Program Management,” which provides step-by-step investigation checklists for family and nonfamily abductions, lost children and runaways
- “The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Child Abduction Response Plan,” which details techniques essential to conducting abduction investigations
- “Long-term Missing Children Guide for Law Enforcement,” which provides strategies for finding long-term missing children

The clearinghouse also offers a best-practices guide for law enforcement for missing person cases. The guide, titled “Legal Mandates and Best Practices Protocol for Law Enforcement in Missing Persons Cases,” can be obtained through the clearinghouse or the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Copies of other materials, brochures and applicable Ohio Revised Code citations are distributed at training sessions and, upon request, by mail. A list of all available publications appears at the end of this report.

Investigative assistance

Law enforcement support for missing child investigations is also offered by the clearinghouse. This help includes:

- Using internet research tools, posting the child’s photo on the clearinghouse website and advising peace officers of available resources, including other local agencies with expertise.
- Conducting online searches to locate the addresses, telephone numbers, professional licenses, neighbors and family members of people who may have taken or may be associated with a missing child.
- Analyzing law enforcement records to see whether the child has been incarcerated, taken into the custody of child protective services, obtained a new driver’s license or state ID card, or had other contact with law enforcement agencies.
- Accessing various social networking websites to determine which missing children may have posted profiles, which sometimes reveal details about children’s whereabouts, the reasons for their disappearance, their friends and contacts.
- Providing suspect and associate work-ups to determine possible places the child may go and the risk of danger to the child.

- Working with staff from these BCI units:
 - Crimes Against Children Unit, which aids local law enforcement with abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking and internet crimes against children
 - The Criminal Intelligence Unit, which can provide background information on missing individuals and suspects
 - The Special Investigations Unit, which can provide an agent to directly assist with a local investigation
 - The Cyber Crimes Unit, which provides forensic analysis of many types of technology
 - The Laboratory Division, which can identify best family candidates for submission of DNA and processes samples for DNA

The Ohio Attorney General’s Office also featured hundreds of missing children’s photos on posters in conjunction with Amber Alerts and Endangered Missing Child Alerts.

BCI employs a trained forensic artist who specializes in combining art and science to help identify suspects and missing persons. The artist offers three main services:

- Composite imagery, which can generate leads in locating a person of interest in a missing person investigation, is the process of creating an image through cognitive interviews of witnesses.
- Image modification can be used to create postmortem or age progression images. Postmortem imaging converts an autopsy photo into an image of what the person may have looked like when alive, to generate tips that assist in identification. An age progression is utilized years after a person went missing. The forensic artist modifies the image of the person to resemble what he or she may look like now.
- Facial reconstruction can be used for cases where an unknown person’s skull has been found. One process the artist uses starts with a CT scan made of the skull at a local hospital. The scan is converted to a 3-D image that is then 3-D printed, producing an exact replica of the skull. The replica is used to create an image or a clay model of what the person looked like, which can be forwarded to law enforcement and the news media to generate tips. The process also preserves the remains and any evidence that might be left behind.

It is important to employees of BCI to help give faces – and, with some luck, names – back to unidentified persons.

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse works closely with human trafficking investigators and social service agencies and can help determine whether a child is a victim of (or at risk for) human trafficking. When children are identified as victims or at high risk, the clearinghouse shares the information with human trafficking task forces, investigators and social service agencies. Any resulting tips are shared with the investigating law enforcement agency.

In addition, the clearinghouse provides law enforcement with cellphone tracking information, details on how to obtain warrants for social networking sites or satellite photos of areas pertinent to searches for missing children, direction on legal issues, Child Abduction Response Team assistance, and details on alert procedures.

A BCI special agent serves as Ohio's Child Abduction Response Team coordinator. The coordinator contacts agencies during any endangered missing person case and offers additional assistance and resources, participates in Ohio CART Steering Committee meetings, updates the Amber Alert Advisory Committee, helps create policy and procedures, and coordinates the CART response to investigations.

Ohio Department of Health

Under a policy the clearinghouse forged with the Ohio Department of Health, the department flags and holds the birth certificates of missing children involved in an Amber Alert or Endangered Missing Child Alert and notifies law enforcement of requests for missing children's birth certificates.

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services case managers provide the clearinghouse with information that can help locate a missing child and prevent future disappearances. The clearinghouse provides training to ODJFS employees about procedures involving the agency and other information about missing children.

Other assistance

Human trafficking

Human trafficking forces the most vulnerable members of society — including children — into modern-day slavery. Of the more than 26,500 endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) in 2020, 1 in 6 was a likely victim of child sex trafficking. The average age of child sex trafficking victims reported to NCMEC was just 15 years old.

The Missing Persons Unit assists local law enforcement agencies with identifying missing children who are at high risk of victimization for domestic sex trafficking. The unit then refers the missing child case to BCI's Crimes Against Children Unit, which assists in efforts to locate such children, including those confirmed as sex trafficking victims. The Missing Persons Unit also shares information about missing children with local law enforcement and social service agencies that work with human trafficking victims.

National resources and partners

The **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children** works to prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation, find missing children and assist victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families and the professionals who serve them. For details, visit www.missingkids.org or call **800-THE-LOST (800-843-5678)**.

The Missing Persons Unit collaborates with the **U.S. State Department** regarding outgoing and incoming child abduction cases with an international connection. Within the State Department, the **Office of Children's Issues** assists parents whose children have been abducted to and from foreign countries. Country officers provide information for parents and/or legal guardians that they can use to identify options – both criminal and civil – to pursue the return of their abducted children. The Office of Children's Issues works closely and cooperatively with a wide range of U.S. and foreign entities, including law enforcement, nongovernmental organizations and foreign governments. Call **888-407-4747** for more information.

The **National Runaway Safeline** is the federally designated national communication system for homeless and runaway youths. The organization provides crisis intervention, referrals to local resources, and educational and prevention services to youth, families and community members around the clock. The group is known for its Home Free Program – which, in conjunction with Greyhound Lines and United Airlines – provides runaways with free transportation home. For information, visit www.1800runaway.org.

A Child Is Missing Inc. provides a first-responder program to law enforcement. The program's rapid response telephone system alerts residents in a targeted area about a missing child, elderly person or individual with mental impairments or disabilities. The program serves several states, including Ohio. A Child Is Missing works in concert with Amber Alert and other child safety programs and can be activated only by law enforcement. No special equipment or personnel are needed for the program, which is free. For information, visit www.achildismissing.org.

Code Adam, a National Center for Missing & Exploited Children program sponsored by Old Navy, is a powerful search tool for lost and potentially abducted children used in hundreds of thousands of locations across the U.S. It is designed to help businesses, parks, government buildings and other establishments put safety protocols in place to respond if a child goes missing. The program was created in memory of 6-year-old Adam Walsh, who was abducted from a Florida department store and later found murdered. Adam's parents, John and Revé Walsh, founded the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Code Adam Kits can be obtained through that nonprofit organization. They include a training video, protocols reference poster, manager's checklist to ensure full implementation and a quiz for employees. For details, visit www.missingkids.org.

Team Adam, another program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, provides rapid, on-site assistance to law enforcement agencies and families in serious cases of missing children. Team Adam consultants are retired law enforcement professionals with years of investigative experience at the federal, state and local levels. Consultants from Team Adam rapidly deploy to sites where these cases are unfolding. They provide on-the-ground technical assistance and connect local law enforcement to a national network of resources. The program's unique access

to the center's resources, coupled with years of law enforcement experience, often provides departments with the added tools needed to better address complex, media-intensive cases. For more information, visit www.missingkids.org.

Team HOPE (Help Offering Parents Empowerment) assists families with missing children by offering counseling, resources, empowerment and support from trained volunteers who have (or have had) missing children. For information, call **866-305-HOPE (866-305-4673)** or visit www.missingkids.org.

Related publications

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse can provide the following publications, most produced by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children or the National Runaway Safeline, to local agencies:

- Child Fingerprint ID Cards
- "Keep Your Child Safe" palm card
- Child Safety Game Sheet
- Eight Rules for Safety
- Family Abduction: How to Prevent Abduction and What to Do if Your Child is Abducted
- When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide
- National Runaway Safeline
- Amber Alert for the Media
- For Healthcare Professionals: Guidelines on Prevention of and Response to Infant Abductions
- Parental Kidnapping: How To Prevent Abduction and What To Do if Your Child Is Abducted
- Recovery and Reunification of Missing Children
- Youth at Risk: Understanding Runaway and Exploited Youth

Just in Case series for families

- Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case You Need a Babysitter
- Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case You Need Help Finding Professional Help
- Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case You are Considering Daycare
- Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case You are Considering Family Separation
- Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case Your Child is Testifying in Court
- Just in Case ... Parental and Professional Guidelines in Dealing With Grief Following the Loss of a Child
- Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case Your Child Might Someday be Missing
- Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case Your Child Might Someday be a Runaway
- Just in Case ... Parental Guidelines in Case Your Child Might Someday Be a Victim of Sexual Abuse or Exploitation

Know the Rules for Child Safety

- Know the Rules (After School Safety for Children Home Alone)
- Know the Rules (For Child Safety in Amusement or Theme Parks)
- Know the Rules (For Child Safety in Youth Sports)
- Know the Rules (General Parental Tips to Help Keep Your Child Safer)
- Know the Rules (Safety Tips for The Holidays)
- Know the Rules (School Safety Tips)
- Know the Rules (For Going to and from School More Safely)

Law enforcement resources

- Amber Alert Investigator Checklist
- Law Enforcement: Resource Information
- Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigation and Program Management
- Long-term Missing Children Guide for Law Enforcement: Law enforcement strategies for finding long-term missing children
- Child Molesters Who Abduct
- Child Molesters (A Behavioral Analysis)
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Publication Order Form
- Child Sex Rings: Behavioral Analysis
- Female Juvenile Prostitution Problem and Response
- Criminal Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Laws in Eight Midwestern States
- Children Traumatized in Sex Rings
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Interviewing Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation
- Investigator's Guide to Missing Child Cases

OHIO'S 2020 NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY POSTER CONTEST



1st place | Kendall Hummer
Midview Local, East Intermediate, Grafton



2nd place | Bryce Jamison
Midview Local, East Intermediate,
Grafton



3rd place | Carolynn Below
Bataan Intermediate, Port Clinton





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OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

**MISSING CHILDREN
CLEARINGHOUSE
2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

Ohio Attorney General's Office
OHIO BUREAU OF CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATION
Missing Persons Unit
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