

*Protecting Ohio's Families*



# Ohio Attorney General's Office Missing Children Clearinghouse



**2011**  
Annual Report



**MIKE DEWINE**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

# 2011 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest



## 1st Place

Lydia Mattingly  
Liberty-Benton Elementary  
Findlay, Ohio



## 2nd Place

Karly Loesch  
State Road Elementary  
Parma, Ohio



## 3rd Place

Daniel Mills  
State Road Elementary  
Parma, Ohio



# MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

May 25, 2012

The Honorable John Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio  
Riffe Center, 30th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Michael B. Colbert  
Director, Department of Job and Family Services  
30 E. Broad St., 32nd Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable William G. Batchelder  
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives  
Riffe Center, 14th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Thomas E. Niehaus  
President, Ohio Senate  
Statehouse, Second Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Tom Stickrath  
Superintendent  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
1560 State Route 56 SW  
London, OH 43140

Dear Colleagues,

Thankfully, most children in Ohio who are reported missing return home quickly and safely. As a state, we must do all in our power to promote that outcome by having the proper resources and staff ready to mobilize whenever called upon. In Ohio, those resources are available through the Ohio Bureau of Investigation's Missing Persons Unit, which operates the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse.

For almost 20 years, the clearinghouse has been an enduring source of information and assistance that works with parents, schools, and other partners to keep children safe. The clearinghouse compiles data on missing children, serves as a liaison to law enforcement, and works with others to train and provide educational materials to teachers, parents, children, and law enforcement. The clearinghouse also coordinates with law enforcement in issuing Ohio's AMBER Alerts, Endangered Missing Child Alerts, and Missing Adult Alerts and raises awareness of the issues surrounding abductions and runaway children.

As Ohio's Attorney General, I am committed to protecting the families and children of our state, and I am proud to share this report detailing the clearinghouse's work in 2011. For information, please visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons) or call **800-325-5604**.

Sincerely,

Mike DeWine  
Ohio Attorney General

# Missing Children Clearinghouse Overview

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse was established in 1993 under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 109.65(B) and serves as a central repository of statistics and information about missing children in Ohio. It also assists in searches and develops and disseminates information about missing and abducted children through statewide alerts, trainings, child abuse prevention and safety fairs, and child safety lesson plans.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's office created the Ohio Missing Persons Unit in 2011 to better coordinate and convey information about services related to missing children and missing adults. The unit, which operates the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse, was placed within the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) to facilitate the quickest possible response to missing persons cases and provide 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 maintains a toll-free hotline, **800-325-5604**, to field calls from law enforcement, parents, community members, and the media 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Parents should contact local law enforcement immediately if a child goes missing. If contacted, the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse also will take a supplemental report and verify the investigating agency has entered the child's name into the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database. Parents also should file a report with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

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

- Coordinating with law enforcement in the issuance of AMBER Alerts, Endangered Missing Child Alerts, and Missing Adult Alerts
- Providing investigative guidance and assistance
- Using law enforcement databases, public records, and social networking websites to help locate children
- Training law enforcement, other professionals, and the public

The Attorney General's Office maintains a website at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons) that provides visibility for missing persons cases and a central location at which families and the public can seek resources and guidance. The site features details and photos of missing children, missing adults, and unsolved homicides throughout Ohio and allows site visitors to submit tips and print alert posters.

In 2011, the Ohio Attorney General's Office began printing pictures and information about missing children and adults on its business envelopes to further increase public awareness. Two missing persons are featured on each envelope along with clearinghouse contact information. New cases are featured every time an order of envelopes is printed.



## 2011 Statistics

The clearinghouse documented 18,961 reports of missing children in Ohio in 2011. Of those, authorities reported that 98.4 percent — 18,656 children — were recovered. One child was recovered deceased.

The statistics are based on figures law enforcement agencies have entered into the NCIC database. Some children, such as those who are recovered quickly or are the subject of frequent custody disputes, may not be included in NCIC statistics.

Missing children reports filed with the NCIC fall into five categories. Category totals for 2011 were:

- Runaways — 11,720
- Lost, injured, or otherwise missing — 7,138
- Family abductions — 81
- International family abductions — 7
- Non-family abductions — 3

## Definitions of Missing Children Categories

**Runaway:** A child leaves home without permission and stays away overnight.

**Lost, injured, or otherwise missing:** This is a situation in which a child's whereabouts are unknown to the child's caretaker for at least an hour. This may happen because the child was trying to get home or make contact with the caretaker but was unable to do so because he or she was lost, stranded, or injured; the child was too young to know how to return home or make contact with the caretaker; or the child was unaware that the caretaker was looking for him or her.

**Family abduction:** This occurs when 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 occur before or after a court issues a custody determination. ORC 2919.23 spells out what constitutes family abduction, also known as interference with custody, and the accompanying penalties. Criminal statutes across the country vary both 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.

**International family abductions:** This occurs when — in violation of a custody order, decree, or other legitimate custodial rights — a member of the child's family or someone acting on behalf of a family member takes or fails to return a child, and the child is concealed or transported out of the United States with the intent to prevent contact or deprive the caretaker of custodial rights indefinitely or permanently.

**Non-family abduction:** Two scenarios qualify as non-family abductions. In one, a non-family perpetrator takes a child by using physical force or threat of bodily harm or detains a child for at least one hour in an isolated place by the use of physical force or threat of bodily harm without lawful authority or parental/guardian permission. In the other scenario, the child is taken, detained,

or voluntarily accompanies a non-family 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, transports the child a distance of 50 miles or more, kills the child, demands ransom, or intends to keep the child permanently.

### **Ages of missing children**

Ohio children reported missing to the NCIC in 2011 were in these age categories:

- 0 to 5 years old — 145
- 6 to 12 years old — 690
- 13 to 17 years old — 11,563
- 17 and older — 6,543
- Age unknown — 20

## Ohio's Missing Children by County in 2011

County	Children Reported Missing	County	Children Reported Missing	County	Children Reported Missing
Adams	16	Guernsey	20	Morrow	27
Allen	177	Hamilton	1,698	Muskingum	40
Ashland	56	Hancock	58	Noble	2
Ashtabula	78	Hardin	23	Ottawa	7
Athens	29	Harrison	1	Paulding	5
Auglaize	21	Henry	11	Perry	31
Belmont	24	Highland	26	Pickaway	74
Brown	18	Hocking	9	Pike	33
Butler	316	Holmes	6	Portage	130
Carroll	9	Huron	55	Preble	17
Champaign	26	Jackson	10	Putnam	15
Clark	254	Jefferson	20	Richland	191
Clermont	956	Knox	66	Ross	109
Clinton	13	Lake	235	Sandusky	18
Columbiana	63	Lawrence	26	Scioto	34
Coshocton	16	Licking	172	Seneca	77
Crawford	26	Logan	16	Shelby	109
Cuyahoga	3,772	Lorain	517	Stark	520
Darke	20	Lucas	916	Summit	348
Defiance	15	Madison	25	Trumbull	250
Delaware	77	Mahoning	514	Tuscarawas	38
Erie	148	Marion	60	Union	21
Fairfield	120	Medina	98	Van Wert	4
Fayette	14	Meigs	1	Vinton	3
Franklin	4,510	Mercer	9	Warren	87
Fulton	29	Miami	72	Washington	20
Gallia	19	Monroe	0	Wayne	82
Geauga	7	Montgomery	1,044	Williams	6
Greene	79	Morgan	6	Wood	36
				Wyandot	5

# Tools for Finding Missing Children

## AMBER Alert

Ohio's statewide AMBER Alert Plan was launched on Jan. 1, 2003. The program utilizes the resources of law enforcement and the media to notify the public when children are kidnapped.

Its beginnings are tied to a national effort to publicize child abductions that followed the 1996 kidnapping and murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman in Dallas. While named for Amber Hagerman, the program's title also is an acronym for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response.

In addition to Ohio's statewide plan, 24 local or regional areas have AMBER Alert plans that complement the statewide plan and spell out procedures for alerts in those specific geographic areas.

In 2011, Ohio law enforcement issued 11 AMBER Alerts related to the disappearance of 14 children. All 14 of the children were recovered safely.

Missing Persons Unit staff members help train law enforcement and others in AMBER Alert procedures and best practices. In 2011, 1,035 law enforcement personnel, media representatives, emergency management staff, children's services administrators, and victim advocates attended clearinghouse workshops focusing on missing children investigations and AMBER Alert procedures.

In addition, the director of the Missing Persons Unit represents the Ohio Attorney General's Office on the AMBER Alert Steering Committee. Other members include representatives of the Buckeye 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, Ohio Association of Broadcasters, and a victim's advocate.

## Steps Taken During an Ohio AMBER Alert

Here are the official steps taken in the course of issuing an AMBER Alert:

- Law enforcement receives an initial call of a missing child and responds to the scene.
- Law enforcement confirms 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 a 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 and the abductor, and the circumstances indicate that the alert could help locate the child.
- Law enforcement issues a radio broadcast to all neighboring law enforcement agencies and enters pertinent information into the National Crime Information Center database. The FBI, Ohio State Highway Patrol, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and Missing Children Clearinghouse are notified of the alert.



- The Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) and the investigating agency discuss case circumstances to verify the case meets AMBER Alert criteria. The clearinghouse also may be consulted.
- OSHP sends a statewide teletype to all Ohio law enforcement agencies alerting them to the child's abduction.
- Law enforcement and broadcasters use the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to air a description of the missing child and suspected abductor.
- The OSHP uses clearinghouse software on the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG), maintained by the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation, to issue e-mails, faxes, and cell phone text messages containing alert information. These go to law enforcement, private and public agencies, businesses, and citizens who have signed up to receive the alerts.
- The OSHP activates Ohio Department of Transportation signboards and posts information on the AMBER Alert Plan website at [www.OhioAMBERplan.org](http://www.OhioAMBERplan.org).
- 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.

## Endangered Missing Child Alert

The issuance of alerts became more efficient in 2011 when features of the Missing Child Alert and Trucker Alert were combined to create the Endangered Missing Child Alert. This alert is designed to seek assistance for a missing child whose disappearance meets all AMBER Alert criteria with the exception that law enforcement cannot determine whether the child was abducted.

Once local law enforcement makes a request of the clearinghouse, an automated system alerts all Ohio law enforcement agencies of the missing child. The Endangered Missing Child Alert provides a radio broadcast to law enforcement in targeted areas, sends faxes and e-mails to the media, can activate a local Child Abduction Response Team (CART) if requested, and uses secondary notification systems to inform the public. The clearinghouse also sends Endangered Missing Child Alerts to participating trucking companies within an area designated by law enforcement. The companies post the information — sent by fax and e-mail — in their drivers' lounges and dispatch offices and include the alerts in dispatches to their drivers.

In 2011, the clearinghouse issued six Endangered Missing Child Alerts. All of the children were recovered safely.

## Responsibilities of law enforcement

Under Ohio Revised Code Section 2901.30, which addresses missing children cases, law enforcement is designated to handle the following responsibilities:

- Take missing children reports and investigate them promptly
- Make concerted efforts to locate the child
- Submit information about missing children to NCIC immediately after a report is complete
- Notify the missing children's parents, guardians, custodians, or caregivers of case updates and of the submission of information to 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 NCIC

## **National Missing Children's Day**

The nation marks National Missing Children's Day each May 25. In 2011, the Missing Persons Unit held a balloon launch at Columbus Preparatory Academy to raise awareness of the hundreds of children missing in Ohio. Students, teachers, staff members, law enforcement, and Attorney General's Office staff released balloons bearing the names and disappearance dates of each of Ohio's missing children.

That evening, Attorney General's Office staff manned a phone bank during the evening news on WBNS-10 TV to raise awareness of missing children. Some of the Columbus area's missing children were featured, prompting tips from viewers that were passed on to law enforcement.

The Missing Persons Unit, in coordination with the Ohio Department of Education, also forwarded the work of Ohio's first-, second-, and third-place National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest winners on to the national contest. The Department of Justice hosts the annual competition to raise awareness of child abductions and promote safety.

A panel of judges assembled by the Missing Persons Unit selected these Ohio winners in 2011:

- First place, Lydia Mattingly, Liberty-Benton Elementary, Findlay
- Second place, Karly Loesch, State Road Elementary, Parma
- Third place, Daniel Mills, State Road Elementary, Parma

## Collaborations

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

**Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force** — The Missing Persons Unit participates in the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, which also involves local, state, and federal law enforcement; victim advocacy agencies; and prosecutors' offices. The task force identifies human trafficking victims, investigates criminal activity, assists with victim services, and prosecutes offenders. The Missing Persons Unit staff assists investigators, shares intelligence, provides resources, and identifies funding sources. The Missing Persons Unit director co-chairs the task force's Law Enforcement Subcommittee, assists in the organization of task force meetings, and engages other agencies to participate in the task force.

**Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition** — The Missing Persons Unit director 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 to law enforcement.

**I-SEARCH** — The InterState Enforcement Agencies to Recover Children (I-SEARCH) Advisory Council aids in the identification and recovery of missing children. Midwestern member states are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The Missing Persons Unit manager served as president of I-SEARCH in 2011.

**NamUs** — The Missing Persons Unit participates in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) workgroup. NamUs is the first national online repository for records involving missing people and unidentified human remains. Launched in 2007 by the U.S. Department of Justice, the initiative is aimed at reducing the number of unidentified bodies held at coroners' and medical examiners' offices across the United States. Through NamUs and other measures, the number of unidentified human remains has fallen from about 40,000 in 2008 to less than 9,000 currently. Coroners and medical examiners enter an individual's record into the database, which is cross-checked with an unidentified remains database in hopes of confirming identification. Families of missing people also may submit DNA to aid in the identification of remains.

**Ohio Child Abduction Response Team (CART)** — Ohio CART is a network of trained public safety and other individuals from various agencies, jurisdictions, and disciplines prepared to respond to missing, endangered, or abducted children and adults. Ohio CART was developed in 2006 by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee in collaboration with the Missing Children Clearinghouse. Twenty-three local CART teams cover six Ohio regions and can be activated when a child goes missing or is abducted.

**Riverside Methodist Hospital** — The Missing Persons Unit collaborated with Riverside Methodist Hospital and local, state, and federal law enforcement on a new infant abduction exercise in 2011. The exercise coincided with the implementation of new hospital policies to better protect infants from abduction and increase child safety on hospital grounds. Missing Persons Unit staff members assisted with the exercise and evaluated the response of hospital employees.

# Assistance to the Public

## Online Resources

The Missing Children Clearinghouse Web page, [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons), provides valuable information to the public, including:

- Steps to take if your child is missing
- Photographs/poster templates to raise awareness of missing children
- Publications
- Safety tips
- Fingerprint identification cards and game sheets (also available by calling **800-325-5604**)
- Links to Ohio's AMBER Alert Plan, training information, other state clearinghouses, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

The public plays a vital role in the recovery of missing children through another Web-based resource, the Ohio Citizens Alert Network (CAN). By subscribing to CAN on Ohio's AMBER Alert website at [www.ohioamberplan.org](http://www.ohioamberplan.org), citizens can learn of missing children through text messages and e-mails.

## Trainings

The Missing Persons Unit gave training presentations on AMBER Alert, CART, first-responder programs, child safety and prevention, reunification, resources for law enforcement, intervention, and human trafficking to about 4,000 law enforcement officers, community members, teachers, children, Child Protective Services employees, and other interested agencies and individuals.

## Telephone inquiries

The unit responded to more than 2,000 calls from law enforcement, families of missing children, state and federal agencies, and others on issues related to missing children.

# Assistance to Law Enforcement and Other Agencies

## Trainings

The clearinghouse conducted 14 trainings for law enforcement across Ohio. Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy students, juvenile officers, new sheriffs, and trainers received instruction on missing children investigations, safety tips for children, AMBER Alert protocol, and initiating other missing children alerts.

The clearinghouse also works with the Ohio Department of Education to promote child safety through school presentations and assemblies. At 10 presentations in 2011, more than 2,700 children received information on how to stay safe, how to prevent abduction, what to do in the event of an abduction, and common consequences of — and alternatives to — running away. Each child also received safety information and a fingerprint card.

Nearly 200 criminal justice professionals and members of the media attended the 2011 AMBER Alert Conference, which Missing Persons Unit staff members help coordinate. Among the speakers were Knox County Sheriff David Barber, winner of the 2011 National Missing Children's Law Enforcement Award, and Detective David Light, who discussed a 2010 triple homicide and child abduction in their jurisdiction. Also speaking were Groveport Police Chief Ralph Portier, whose department's work led to the recovery of an abducted Lancaster child, and Dr. Veronica Valliere, a clinical psychologist with expertise in sex offender and victim issues.

The clearinghouse provides two investigative manuals to law enforcement:

- "Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigations and Program Management" includes step-by-step investigation checklists for family and non-family abductions, lost children, and runaways.
- "The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Child Abduction Response Plan" details techniques essential in conducting abduction investigations.

The clearinghouse also offers the NCMEC's "Selected State Legislation Booklet," which provides advice for drafting laws to protect children.

Copies of other materials, brochures, and applicable Ohio Revised Code citations are distributed at trainings and upon request. A list of all available publications appears at the end of this report.

## Investigative assistance

The clearinghouse assists law enforcement in missing children investigations by:

- Utilizing Internet research tools, posting the child's photo on the Attorney General's website, and advising peace officers of available resources
- Conducting online searches to locate family members, neighbors, addresses, and telephone numbers of people associated with a missing child.
- Analyzing law enforcement records to see if 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 on which missing children may have posted profiles, which sometimes reveal details about their whereabouts, reasons for their disappearance, their friends, and contacts

In 2011, the Missing Persons Unit posted 1,034 cases involving missing children and adults on the Ohio Attorney General's website and featured hundreds of missing children's photos on posters following AMBER and Endangered Missing Child Alerts. All tips that resulted were forwarded to the investigating law enforcement agency.

The clearinghouse also provides law enforcement with cell phone tracking information, details on obtaining satellite photos of areas pertinent to searches for missing children, direction on legal issues, CART assistance, details on alert procedures, and information on warrants related to social networking sites. The clearinghouse also can recommend other state and national resources.

## **Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway**

The Ohio Attorney General's Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) is a secure, Web-based crime-fighting and communication tool that provides Ohio law enforcement agencies with a single source for information on missing children. All missing child data that law enforcement enters into the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) is automatically downloaded into the missing persons section of OHLEG, which law enforcement can use to quickly disseminate important details to the public. Through OHLEG, law enforcement can create missing children posters, generate advisories, and search the Sex Offender Registration and Notification system (eSORN) to locate registered sex offenders in the area a child may be missing.

## **Ohio Department of Health**

Under a policy the clearinghouse forged with the Ohio Department of Health in 2004, the department flags and holds the birth certificates of missing children 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 (ODJFS) case managers provide the clearinghouse with information that can help locate a missing child and prevent future disappearances. The clearinghouse trains ODJFS employees on procedural issues involving missing children cases.

## **LOCATER**

The clearinghouse staff utilized the Web-based Lost Child Alert Technology Resource (LOCATER) system to create and disseminate posters of missing children to other state clearinghouses, law enforcement agencies, and private businesses nationwide. The posters can be viewed on the Attorney General's website and printed for display to aid in searches for missing children.

## **eOPOTA**

Online training courses for law enforcement offered through eOPOTA, the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy's Web-based instruction program, examine missing children statistics, outline resources, and present



interactive scenarios. In 2011, 4,841 law enforcement personnel completed the Awareness of Human Trafficking course, while 2,168 completed the course on Responding to Human Trafficking.

## Other Assistance

### Human trafficking

Missing Persons Unit staff and others within the Ohio Attorney General's Office also work to address the problem of human trafficking, which is estimated to affect thousands of Ohioans. A growing criminal industry in the United States and around the world, human trafficking amounts to modern-day slavery. The United Nations estimates traffickers generate billions of dollars in profit each year at the expense of millions of victims who are forced or coerced into labor or sexually exploited. Most of the U.S. children victimized by traffickers meet the latter fate.

In August, Attorney General Mike DeWine convened the Human Trafficking Commission, which includes elected and appointed officials; members of local, state, and federal law enforcement; and representatives of social service agencies and religious groups. Formed to continue work started by Ohio's Trafficking in Persons Study Commission, which had completed its statutory directives, the group identifies ways to help victims and investigate and prosecute traffickers.

Missing Persons Unit staff members participate in the commission's bimonthly meetings and assist the Victim Services and Law Enforcement subcommittees.

In coordination with the Law Enforcement Subcommittee, the Missing Persons Unit worked with the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) to create a course on human trafficking for peace officers. Approximately 1,300 officers, other first responders, and victim advocates took the training in 2011. In addition, 83 law enforcement officers took OPOTA's Human Trafficking Investigations course.

The Missing Persons Unit also is represented on the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition, which creates public awareness about human trafficking, serves and advocates for victims, and provides resources and training for law enforcement. The Missing Persons Unit director serves on the coalition's steering committee and chairs its Law Enforcement Subcommittee.

## National Resources and Partners

**A Child Is Missing Inc.** — This program's rapid response telephone system alerts residents in a targeted area about a missing child, elderly person, or mentally impaired or disabled individual. The program serves several states, including Ohio. A Child Is Missing works in concert with AMBER Alert and other child safety programs and can only be activated by law enforcement. No special equipment or personnel are needed, and the program is free. For details, visit [www.achildismissing.org](http://www.achildismissing.org).

**Code Adam** — Code Adam is one of the nation's largest child-safety programs. It was created by Wal-Mart to assist businesses and others with public facilities in preventing a child from being

abducted and removed from the premises. The Code Adam program was named for 6-year-old Adam Walsh, whose 1981 abduction and murder brought the horror of child abduction to national attention. The program lays out a series of steps to be taken in the event that a child is reported missing in a store or similar location. All Ohio agencies, schools, libraries, law enforcement agencies, and retailers are encouraged to promote Code Adam in their areas.

**National Center for Missing and Exploited Children** — The center helps 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. More information is available at [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com) or by calling **800-THE-LOST (800-843-5678)**.

**National Runaway Switchboard** — This is a federally designated national communication system for homeless and runaway youth. The organization provides crisis intervention, referrals to local resources, and educational and prevention services to youth, families, and community members 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The group is well known for its Home Free Program, which in conjunction with Greyhound Lines and United Airlines provides runaways with free transportation home. More information is available at [www.1800runaway.org](http://www.1800runaway.org).

**Team HOPE: Help Offering Parents Empowerment** — Through this program, trained volunteers who have or have had missing children assist families of missing children by offering counseling, resources, and support. More information is available by visiting [www.teamhope.org](http://www.teamhope.org) or calling **866-305-HOPE (866-305-4673)**.

## Related Publications

The following publications related to missing children issues are available from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 703-224-2150.

Child Fingerprint ID Cards  
Child Safety Game Sheet  
Child Safety on the Information Highway  
Eight Rules for Safety  
For Camp Counselors: Guidelines on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation  
Guidelines for Programs to Reduce Child Victimization  
Child Protection  
Personal Safety for Children  
Teen Safety on the Information Highway  
Family Abduction: How to Prevent Abduction and What to Do If Your Child is Abducted  
When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide  
Online Victimization (A Report on the Nation's Youth)  
National Runaway Switchboard  
AMBER Alert for the Media  
For Healthcare Professionals: Guidelines on Preventing Infant Abductions  
Non-Profit Service Provider's Handbook  
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 Guidelines on Using the Federal Parent Locator Service in Cases of Parental Kidnapping and Child Custody  
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 the 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

Child Molesters Who Abduct

Child Molesters (A Behavioral Analysis)

National Center For Missing and 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

Investigators Guide to Missing Child Cases

Selected State Legislation



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Ohio Attorney General's Office  
**Missing Children Clearinghouse**

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**How to contact us**

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Missing Persons Unit  
150 E. Gay St., 25th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

614-466-5610  
Hotline: 800-325-5604

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**MIKE DEWINE**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

[www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov)