

ANNUAL  
REPORT

2018

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# MISSING CHILDREN CLEARINGHOUSE

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**DAVE YOST**

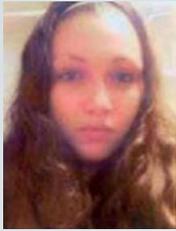
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

## Ashley Summers

Endangered runaway

Cleveland, Ohio

Missing since: 7/9/2007



Went missing at: age 14  
Current age: 25  
Gender: Female  
Race/Ethnicity: White  
Height: 5'5"  
Weight: 130 lbs  
Hair color: Brown  
Eye color: Blue



Age progression

Ashley has a tattoo of "Gene" and a heart on her right arm. Her ears are pierced. She is believed to still be in the local area. Ashley was last seen on West 44th Street in Cleveland, Ohio.

If you have any information, contact the Cleveland Police Department at 216-623-5005.

## Melissa Ann Collins

Lost, injured or missing

Akron, Ohio

Missing since: 8/8/1991



Went missing at: age 17  
Current age: 45  
Gender: Female  
Race/Ethnicity: Black  
Height: 5'3"  
Weight: 120 lbs  
Hair color: Black  
Eye color: Brown



Age progression

Melissa was last seen leaving to go to the grocery store with her daughter, Jasmine Kirlissa Collins. Melissa did not take any extra clothing or baby items when they left for the store.

Jasmine required medication for asthma and Melissa has a scar on her upper left arm.

If you have any information, contact the Akron Police Department at 330-375-2530.

## Kristina and John Nguyen

Abduction — Family

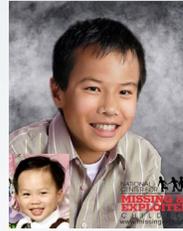
Delhi, Ohio

Missing since: 6/6/2002



Age progression

**Kristina:**  
Went missing at: age 5  
Current age: 22  
Height: 3'8"  
Weight: 60 pounds  
Hair color: Black  
Eye color: Brown  
Nickname or alias: Hang



Age progression

**John:**  
Went missing at: age 2  
Current age: 20  
Height: 3'0"  
Weight: 40 pounds  
Hair color: Black  
Eye color: Brown  
Nickname or alias: Tai

Kristina and John were last seen with their mother, Van Nguyen.

If you have any information, contact the Delhi Township Police Department at 513-922-0060.

## Melvin Charles Horst

Lost, injured or missing

Orrville, Ohio

Missing since: 12/27/1928



Went missing at: age 4  
Current age: 94  
Gender: Male  
Race/Ethnicity: White  
Height: 3'1"  
Weight: 49 lbs  
Hair color: Brown  
Eye color: Blue

Melvin went to play with four neighborhood friends at a vacant lot down the street from his home. The other boys told authorities that Melvin said he had to walk home, but he never arrived. The toy he was carrying was found in his front yard.

If you have any information, contact the Orrville Police Department at 330-684-5058.

**For more information, visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingChildren](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingChildren).**



# DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 20, 2019

The Honorable Mike DeWine  
Governor, State of Ohio  
Riffe Center, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Joseph Morbitzer  
Superintendent  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
P.O. Box 365  
London, Ohio 43140

The Honorable Larry Obhof  
President, Ohio Senate  
1 Capitol Square  
Statehouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Larry Householder  
Speaker, Ohio House of  
Representatives  
77 S. High St.  
Riffe Center, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Kimberly Hall, Director  
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30 E. Broad St., 32<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Colleagues,

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan designated May 25 as Missing Children Day, in part in memory of Etan Patz, who disappeared in New York City on that date in 1979. Thirty-six years later, as May 25 approaches, I am reminded of the timeless words of Reagan's proclamation:

*"Our children are the Nation's most valuable and most vulnerable asset. They are our link to the future, our hope for a better life. Their protection and safety must be one of our highest priorities."*

My office is dedicated to protecting the unprotected, and it is difficult to imagine anyone more defenseless than a missing child. This report details the work completed in 2018 by the Missing Children Clearinghouse to help recover and protect this vulnerable group.

The Missing Persons Unit of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation oversees the Missing Children Clearinghouse. The clearinghouse compiles data on missing children, assists police and families, and works with the Ohio departments of Education and Job and Family Services to educate and assist law enforcement officers, teachers, parents and children. In addition, BCI issues Ohio's Endangered Missing Children Alerts.

I urge all Ohioans to take precautions to protect our state's children, to act quickly to aid local law enforcement when someone goes missing, and to heed the children around you to help keep them safe.

For more information, please visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons) or call **800-325-5604**.

Very respectfully 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, including news releases, training updates, and dates for child abuse prevention and safety fairs.

The Ohio Missing Persons Unit, housed within the attorney general's Bureau of Criminal Investigation, operates the MCCH. Because it is part of BCI's Criminal Intelligence Unit, 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**) to field calls from law enforcement, parents, community members and the media.

The Missing Persons Unit's website ([www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons](http://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 others on the issuance of Amber Alerts.
- Analyzing social networking websites, public records 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, schoolchildren 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 FBI's National Crime Information Center database. Parents should also file a report with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.



## 2018 Statistics

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse receives monthly statistics on missing persons in Ohio whose cases have been entered into the NCIC database by law enforcement agencies.

Based on these statistics, the clearinghouse documented 25,619 people reported missing in 2018. Of those, 19,879 were reports of missing children – 10,643 female and 9,236 male. Authorities reported that 98.1% – a total of 19,510 children – were recovered safely by the year's end. Open source data revealed that two children reported missing were found dead in 2018.

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

Here are NCIC categories of missing persons and the 2018 Ohio cases within each:

- Individual under the age of 21 who is missing and does not meet any of the entry criteria set forth in other categories: **19,397**
- Person of any age who is missing under circumstances indicating that his/her physical safety may be in danger: **2,106**
- Person of any age who is missing under circumstances indicating that the disappearance may not have been voluntary (such as abductions and kidnappings): **83**
- Individual of any age who is missing and under proven physical/mental disability or is senile, thereby subjecting him/her or others to personal and immediate danger: 564
- Person of any age who is missing after a catastrophe: **2**
- Missing individual over the age of 21 who does not meet the criteria for any other category and for whom there is a reasonable concern for his/her safety: **2,704**

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.

### Ohio's missing person circumstances in 2018

In cases for which circumstances were specified, these are the NCIC descriptions and 2018 numbers:

**Runaway:** A child leaves home without permission and stays away overnight. **12,069**

**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." **48**

**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. **6**

**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). **5**

## **Attempted Child Abductions**

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse works with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to identify patterns involving attempted child abductions, provide technical assistance and resources for law enforcement, and raise awareness among parents and children.

In Ohio, the clearinghouse documented 19 attempted child abductions involving 14 girls and 5 boys. The suspects were driving vehicles in 37% of the situations, and 61% took place between the hours of 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Just fewer than half of the incidents (48%) happened while the children were walking to or from school.

Among the incidents for which the outcome is known, 72% 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, 37% used physical force or a weapon and 37% engaged the children in conversation by asking for directions or help. Eight suspects were arrested.

# 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 2018, Ohio law enforcement issued 10 Amber Alerts through the Ohio Amber Alert Plan related to the disappearance of 19 children. All of the children were recovered safely.

Thankfully, most Amber Alerts lead to the child's safe recovery. Here are two such instances involving Ohio children in 2018:

- At 3:56 p.m. on March 3, 2018, the Colerain Police Department issued an Amber Alert for a 3-year-old girl, a 2-year-old girl and a 4-year-old boy. The mother of the children was getting something from her home and the children were left in the car with the engine running. The car was stolen by a known suspect. The children were later recovered safe, and the suspect was arrested.
- At 3:25 p.m. on July 21, 2018, the Cleveland Police Department issued an Amber Alert for a 7-year-old boy, a 4-year-old boy and a 2-year-old girl. The noncustodial mother had lost custody of her children due to child abuse and the mother's poor mental health. The mother forcibly took the three children after a visitation, and local law enforcement was concerned for the safety of the children. The children were found safe, and the mother was taken into custody.

The staff in the attorney general's Missing Persons Unit assists in training law enforcement and the media in Amber Alert procedures and best practices. In 2018, the unit offered clearinghouse workshops covering Amber Alerts to 1,075 law enforcement personnel, media representatives, emergency management staff, children's services administrators and victim advocates.

A staff member from the Missing Persons Unit also represents the attorney general on the Amber Alert Advisory Committee along with 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 as well as a victim advocate.

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 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, 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, Ohio State Highway Patrol, National Center for Missing and 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](http://OhioAmberPlan.org).
- The Highway Patrol disseminates the alert via Twitter. To receive these alerts, visit Twitter and 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 and Exploited Children sends secondary alert notifications via sites such as AOL, 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 whose 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 of the missing child.

The Endangered Missing Child Alert provides a radio broadcast to law enforcement agencies in targeted areas, sends faxes and emails to the media, can activate the local child abduction response team if requested, and uses secondary notification systems to inform the public. The BCI Child Abuse Response Team 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 2018, the clearinghouse issued 11 Endangered Missing Child Alerts. Thirteen children were recovered safe, and one child was recovered deceased.

## 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 NCIC.

## National Missing Children's Day

The nation marks National Missing Children's Day each May 25. Throughout Ohio, a variety of events take place on or around that day. Below is a description of some of the 2018 commemorations:

- A statewide event was hosted jointly by BCI and Battelle in Columbus. Exhibitors provided safety and awareness information and human trafficking resources, and BCI representatives collected DNA samples from families of missing persons as a part of BCI's Project LINK.
- In Kirkersville, more than 600 Kirkersville Elementary School students attended a Missing Persons Unit presentation on child safety.
- In Pataskala, Missing Persons Unit representatives provided child safety presentations to more than 800 students at Pataskala Elementary and Etna Elementary schools during the week.

The Missing Persons Unit forwarded the work of Ohio's poster winner for the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest to the U.S. Department of Justice. The Department of Justice hosts the annual competition to raise awareness about child abductions and promote safety. The Ohio winners are recognized at the Ohio Attorney General's Two Days In May conference.

The Ohio winners below were selected by a panel of judges assembled by the Missing Persons Unit:

- First place: Jeffery Samuel Jr., School of Creative and Performing Arts, Cincinnati
- Second place: Gabrielle Heilmann, Bataan Intermediate School, Port Clinton
- Third place: Abigail Mulford, Licking Valley Intermediate School, Newark

## 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:

**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 supports investigative efforts, shares intelligence and provides resources.

**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 2018, 86 LINK cases were submitted to BCI and 66 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. 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:** A CART is designed to respond when a missing child is considered 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. Dozens of teams are located throughout the state. The CART teams and their coordinators have assisted in the recovery of multiple missing children statewide.

## Assistance to the Public

### Online resources

The Missing Persons Unit website, [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons](http://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 and 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](http://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 gave 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 to 2,870 people in 2018. Included were law enforcement officers, community members, teachers, child protective services employees and children.

The clearinghouse works with the Ohio Department of Education to promote child safety through school presentations and assemblies. In five presentations in 2018, more than 1,700 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 for personal family records. In support of local child safety efforts, the clearinghouse distributed about 4,900 fingerprint cards in 2018.

# Assistance to Law Enforcement and Other Agencies

## Training

The clearinghouse conducted 35 training sessions for law enforcement throughout Ohio in 2018. Officers, including those focused on juvenile-related crimes, as well as 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 is represented on the Ohio Amber Alert Advisory Committee and the subcommittee that organizes the annual Amber Alert Conference. More than 1,450 criminal justice professionals and members of the media attended the November 2018 conference at the Columbus Police Academy in Columbus. An FBI agent provided a case study on a suspect who was breaking into occupied homes and eventually abducted a child. The case provided insights into the perpetrator's thinking and covered the lessons and pitfalls the investigators encountered. Also at the conference, a representative from the Law Enforcement Automated Data System shared an update that makes the system more effective in locating a child and the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force provided an overview of trends they see throughout the Columbus area.

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 help 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.

Ohio BCI has trained forensic artists who specialize in combining art and science to help identify suspects and missing persons. The artists offer 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. Forensic artists modify 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 artists use 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 sends the

information to human trafficking task forces, investigators and social service agencies. Any tips that result are forwarded to 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 procedural issues involving the agencies 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. In Ohio alone, more than 1,000 minors are believed to be forced to sell sex every year. Nationally, the number is estimated at more than 100,000. The Missing Persons Unit trains local law enforcement to identify and investigate human trafficking cases and assists law enforcement in returning missing children at risk of becoming trafficking victims. The unit provided eight training workshops to local first responders about missing children and domestic sex trafficking; more than 500 first responders attended.

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 and 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.com](http://www.missingkids.com) 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](http://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](http://www.achildismissing.org).

**Code Adam**, one of the nation's largest child-safety programs, 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 national attention to the horror of child abduction. 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 and retailers are encouraged to promote Code Adam in their areas. For information, visit <http://codeadam.missingkids.org>.

**Team Adam**, a program of the National Center for Missing and 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 <https://api.missingkids.org/TeamAdam>.

**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.com/ourwork/support/teamhope](http://www.missingkids.com/ourwork/support/teamhope).

## Related publications

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse can provide the following publications, most produced by the National Center for Missing and 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 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
- Investigator's Guide to Missing Child Cases

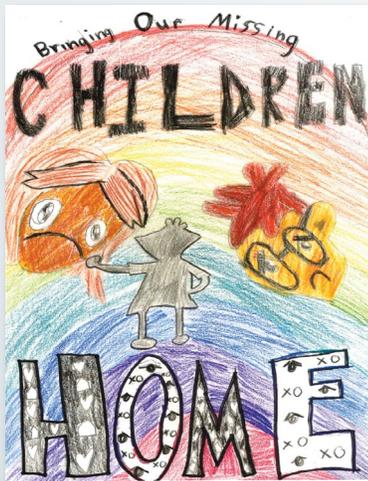
# OHIO'S 2019 NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY POSTER CONTEST



**1st place | Jeffery Samuel Jr.**  
School of Creative and Performing Arts, Cincinnati



**2nd place | Gabrielle Heilmann**  
Bataan Intermediate School, Port Clinton



**3rd place | Abigail Mulford**  
Licking Valley Intermediate School, Newark





**DAVE YOST**

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

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**MISSING CHILDREN  
CLEARINGHOUSE**

**2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

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

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800-325-5604

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