



BRAINTREE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure

A CHILD IS MISSING ALERT

2018-20

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Issuing Authority:

Review Date :

Revised:

Chief Paul Shastany

Certification Standards: **41.2.5 f; 41.2.6 d**

Accreditation Standards:

Optional Accreditation Standards:

Considerations

The first several hours after a child, elderly, and college student on campus or disabled person is reported missing can be critical to the successful outcome of the case. **A Child Is Missing Alert** program is a valuable tool for law enforcement if used properly. A Child Is Missing Alert will generate telephone calls to local residents within fifteen (15) minutes after initiation by law enforcement.

Policy

The Braintree Police Department will utilize A Child Is Missing Alert only for missing children, elderly, college students on campus and disabled persons whenever the criteria are met as required by A Child is Missing program.

A Child Is Missing Alert is an additional tool for the Department. It does not replace or preclude a thorough investigation and/or search.

Criteria for Use

[41.2.6 d]

[41.2.5 f]

Juveniles: [41.2.5 f; 41.2.6 d]

- The juvenile shall be 20 years or younger
- The reporting person must be an adult family member, teacher, or another adult who is responsible for the child/individual.
- College students (Living on Campus)
- Runaway when foul play is suspected
- First time runaway with or without foul play suspected

Senior Citizens: **[41.2.5 f; 41.2.6 d]**

- The person must be sixty-five (65) years of age or older.
- Being missing must be out-of-character for the elderly person
- Used even if an elderly person is a frequent walk away from a nursing facility.
- Known Alzheimer's patient.

Disabled Person: **[41.2.5 f; 41.2.6 f]**

- There is no age stipulation for a disabled person.
- The person has a physical or mental impairment that severely limits self-care.
- The person is disoriented or unable to respond to simple questions.
- The person is dependent upon life sustaining medication or unconscious.

The approving supervisor may take into account exigent circumstances that may influence using A Child Is Missing Alert even if the person is a habitual runaway or walk-away. Examples of these circumstances are: suspected foul play or imminent severe weather.

Contact
Information
[41.2.6 d]

A Child Is Missing Alert phone at 1-888-875-2246 or page the operator at 1-954-492-4778.

When the decision to use A Child Is Missing has been made, the investigating officer can call immediately; however, suggested calling times are from 7:00AM to 10:30PM. Calls can be placed after 10:30 PM (in all time zones) if extenuating circumstances exist and only with agency supervisor's approval. **[41.2.6 d]**.

The Shift Commander will determine what phone number will be supplied to A Child Is Missing Alert for the public to contact the Department with information about the missing person. Any information provided by the public will be investigated thoroughly.

Investigating
Information
Received
From A Child
Is Missing

Information received from a citizen concerning the missing person or a possible sighting of the missing person will be relayed to the Shift Commander. Any information provided by the public will be investigated thoroughly.

If a sighting of the missing person is confirmed, the supervisor may want to consider using A Child Is Missing Alert again using the most recent known location in the notification of residents. This is particularly important if the sighting location is in a different Zip Code

than the original report.

If A Child Is Missing Alert is used more than once in the same case, there is no need to make out additional paper work. A notation of each instance will be written on the existing report. The notation will include each subsequent use by date, time, and location the missing person was last seen.

Follow-Up
Investigation

When the missing person is found, the Shift Commander or designee shall immediately contact Child Is Missing to report the recovery. This will be recorded in PAMET and added to the report.

A "Case Follow-Up Report" from A Child is Missing will be faxed to the Department the following day. The Officer in charge of the case will fill out the report and fax it back to A Child Is Missing (954-763-4569). If this form is not faxed to the Department please call 1-888-875-2246 to inquire of the whereabouts.

If the missing person is not found by the end of the shift, the Shift Commander shall pass the information on to the next Shift Commander and make him/her aware that A Child Is Missing Alert is working with them on the case. If additional calls are necessary, A Child Is Missing Alert will know what areas have been called and can assist the officers in further searches.