

## AMBER ALERTS

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The Florida Amber Plan was established August 30, 2000. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement, along with the Department of Community Affairs and the Florida Association of Broadcasters, Inc. developed this Plan so that child abductions could be broadcasted to the general public, using existing technology, through the Emergency Alert System (EAS). In August 2002, the Florida Amber Plan was expanded to include the Department of Transportation and the Florida Highway Patrol, by using the Dynamic Message Signs along Florida's highways. In November 2002, the Department of Lottery offered the use of lottery machines as another mechanism of delivering child abduction information.

The purpose of this Plan is to broadcast critical information about a child abduction to the general public. Methods of broadcasts include radio, television, dynamic message signs, lottery machines, as well as, private businesses that have offered their resources.

In order for law enforcement to activate the Amber Plan, there are 5 criteria that must be met:

1. The child must be under 18 years of age.
2. There must be a clear indication of an abduction.
3. The law enforcement agency's investigation must conclude that the child's life is in danger.
4. There must be a detailed description of child and/or abductor/vehicle to broadcast to the public.
5. The activation must be recommended by the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction.

## MISSING CHILD ALERTS

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A Missing Child alert is issued for a child who is missing and believed to be in danger; however there is no apparent sign of an abduction. Example: A toddler disappears from a theme park while vacationing with parents. A Missing Child alert allows for immediate distribution to the media outlets, for public awareness.

The Missing Children Information Clearinghouse maintains data on persons who went missing as a juvenile, but are currently adults. To find out more about these and other missing children, you can visit the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Website, [www.fdle.state.fl.us](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us) or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com).

**1-888-FLMISSING (1-888-356-4774) or send email to: [mcic@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:mcic@fdle.state.fl.us)**



Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
Missing Children Information Clearinghouse  
Post Office Box 1489, Tallahassee, Florida 32302  
1-888-FLMISSING (1-888-356-4774) or send email to: [mcic@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:mcic@fdle.state.fl.us)  
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## Florida Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse

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In response to the concern for missing children in Florida, the 1982 Florida Legislature appropriated funds to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for the establishment of the first state Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) in the nation. The program provides liaison among citizens, private organizations and law enforcement officials regarding missing endangered persons information.

The Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC), formerly known as Missing Children Information Clearinghouse is located within the Division of Criminal Justice Information Services and is a central repository of information regarding missing children. The information is collected and disseminated to assist law enforcement agencies, public and private organizations and the citizens of Florida in locating missing children. The MEPIC is utilized as a resource center and information exchange service, and complements the state and federal computerized missing persons' files.

As part of the MEPIC's services, a toll-free telephone line (1-888-356-4774) is available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.

Additional services provided by the MEPIC include a directory of resources available for additional assistance in locating a child; emergency flyers requested by law enforcement agencies containing descriptors of missing children believed to be in immediate danger; training for law enforcement agencies and public/private organizations regarding the operations of the MEPIC; and a child safety guide which includes a list of precautions which outlines programs to insure our children's safety.

### **MEPIC accepts cases that meet the following criteria:**

- The person has been reported missing to a law enforcement agency and entered into the National Crime Information Center database;
- Any missing child who is seventeen (17) years of age or younger; or
- Any missing adult between the ages of 18-25; or
- A missing persons 26 years of age or older who is suspected by law enforcement of being endangered or the victim of criminal activity;
- The child or adult is missing from Florida

If you would like to report a missing person, please contact your local law enforcement agency first and then call MEPIC at (850)410-8585 or toll free at 1-888-FL-MISSING(356-4774). For TTY accessibility, call 1-866-414-7496.

If any additional information is desired about the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse, please contact:

**Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse  
Post Office Box 1489  
Tallahassee, Florida 32302**

**Disclaimer:** Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public-records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

Send email to:  
[mepic@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:mepic@fdle.state.fl.us)