



## Marion County Search & Rescue Team First Responder Check List for Missing Children

### (Also refer to the Law Enforcement Hasty Search Checklist)

- Gather preliminary information, description and size up potential scenarios based on age of missing child and preliminary facts.
  
- Start to rule out scenarios:
  - Child just late or distracted (not in danger)
  - Miscommunication among adult guardians
  - Lost child (unaware they are lost)
  - Lost child (attempting to self rescue)
  - Child injured (unable to self rescue)
  - Runaway
  - Family abduction
  - Staged abduction to conceal emotional family homicide ▪ Stranger abduction
  
- If you feel the missing child may meet high-risk criteria, call for additional resources. This may include additional patrol officers, detectives and/or the Marion County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue team.
  
- Start Hasty Search
  - Thoroughly search house and/or Point Last Seen
  - Area parks
  - Vacant lots or near by open space areas
  - Attractive nuisances
  - Water attractions such as pools, creeks or waterways. **These are a high priority search areas for younger children.**
  
- Secure house and Point Last Seen (PLS) as a crime scene and remove occupants. This will protect vital trace evidence, scent for dogs and DNA if needed later. Also secure computers in the event that the child met abductor on the Internet.
  - Identify Video Cameras along suspected path. Determine if any of them make a recording that can be taken and reviewed.
  - Establish a command post at a nearby facility such as Fire Station, community center, church or school, as available. Do not use house or Point Last Seen as the ICP.
  - Issue county wide B.O.L. and prepare a TRAK flyer with a recent photo of the child.  Issue an Amber Alert IAW agency protocol

Statistics for victims of predator abductions that end in a sexual assault and homicide:

58% initially reported as missing children with no foul play obvious

74% are killed within 3 hours

Only about 50% are reported missing to Police within 3 hours

Due to the low frequency of these crimes, Law Enforcement is often caught off guard