

KEY Messages

As of: April 19, 2022

MISSING IN Harris County DAY, a program of Texas Center for the Missing, is designed to help families and friends with missing loved ones make connections with agencies that can help bring the missing home.

As a by-product of the event, we hope to raise awareness of the missing persons issue, to help educate our community about how to navigate the missing persons system, and how to protect yourself and your family.

Agencies that can assist families and friends of missing persons, social service agencies as well as various missing persons networks, such as Texas Center for the Missing, will be available at the event.

MISSING IN Harris County DAY will be held Saturday, May 14th, from 10 AM to 3 PM at The Children's Assessment Center – Training Center located at 2500 Bolsover St, Houston, TX 77005.

Resources will be on-hand for family and friends of missing persons to obtain information and file a missing persons report — if they have not done so previously. They will also have an opportunity to speak to representatives from different agencies that can provide assistance, and voluntarily submit their DNA with a cheek swab to be entered into a national missing persons database for identification purposes.

Bilingual volunteer guides will greet all attendees to help them navigate the event and make the most of their experience.

Volunteers involved with agencies dedicated to locating missing persons will be on hand to assist family with filing or updating a missing persons report.

A trained DNA collection team will be present to collect voluntary family reference DNA swabs from inside the cheek to upload into a national missing persons database.

The DNA from swabs taken at the event is only entered into the national missing persons database for identification purposes only and will not be compared with or entered into criminal databases.

Law enforcement connected to the event will not be checking for citizenship documentation or for arrest warrants.

It is important to bring certain information with you to the event that can be used to enter or update information in the missing persons database.

This information includes:

- Your photo identification, if you would like to submit family reference DNA
- Photos of the missing person – helpful photos will include the person photographed with any identifying features, such as tattoos or birthmarks, or personal items, such as favorite earrings
- A closely related member of the family, preferably from the mother's side, and two family members if possible for the collection of DNA for identification purposes
- X-rays, dental or medical records, police reports or other identifying documents that can be scanned and placed on file
- Families and friends are welcome to wear memorial t-shirts, bring posters or any literature to display and commemorate their missing loved one (any literature or photos left behind will not be returned)

REPORTING A MISSING PERSON

To report a missing person, whether an adult or juvenile: 1) contact your local law enforcement agency, 2) make a report and 3) provide a current photograph.

Your local law enforcement agency can help you by compiling the necessary information and distributing it to their networks throughout the area.

Contrary to popular myth, there is no 24-hour waiting period required to report a person as missing.

MISSING IN HARRIS COUNTY DAY (MIHCD) HISTORY AND OUTCOMES

Launched in 2015 by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, MIHCD has served Southeast Texas successfully for 7 years. Since 2019, Texas Center for the Missing, Houston's Amber Alert AND Silver Alert Provider, has been the coordinating agency of the event. Since 2015, MIHCD has:

- Recovered 6 missing persons reuniting them with their families.
- Identified 14 missing persons bringing closure to their searching families.
- Uploaded 63 family reference DNA swabs into the national missing persons database (NamUs).

PLEASE NOTE: NO WARRANTS WILL BE SERVED; NO ARREST OR DEPORTATION WILL BE PROCESSED. MISSING IN HARRIS COUNTY DAY CAN HELP IF THE MISSING PERSON IS BELIEVED TO BE ALIVE OR DECEASED.

THIS EVENT IS NOT LIMITED TO HARRIS COUNTY CASES. ALL SEARCHING FAMILIES IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. TEXAS CENTER FOR THE MISSING'S PRIMARY SERVICE AREA IS: AUSTIN, BRAZORIA, CHAMBERS, COLORADO, FORT BEND, GALVESTON, HARRIS, LIBERTY, MATAGORDA, MONTGOMERY, SAN JACINTO, WALKER, WALLER, AND WHARTON COUNTIES

2022 MISSING IN HARRIS COUNTY DAY UNDERWRITING PARTNERS

Harris County Sheriff's Office Foundation
Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences
The Children's Assessment Center

2022 MISSING IN HARRIS COUNTY DAY AGENCY PARTNERS

Alexandria Lowitzer Recovery Fund
Alzheimer's Association
The Children's Assessment Center
CODIS
Crime Stoppers of Houston
Doe Network
Galveston County Medical Examiner's Office
Harris County Community Services
Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences
Harris County Sheriff's Office
Houston Police Department
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
NamUs - National Missing and Unidentified Persons System
Pasadena Police Department
Project Guardian
Project Lifesaver
Texas Center for the Missing
TEXSAR Gulf Coast Division