TEXAS CENTER FOR THE MISSING

What to Do if Your Loved One is Missing

Bringing hope and healing to the missing and their families through crisis intervention, prevention, and community education.

Nothing is worse than losing a loved one.
Stay calm, but allow others to help. Remember, YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

If you suspect a loved one is missing, ACT QUICKLY. Time is precious.
REMEMBER, THERE IS NO 24-HOUR WAITING PERIOD to report someone missing!

- **DIAL 9-1-1.** Give your name, exact location, and say clearly, "I want to report a missing child (or endangered adult)." Ask that an officer come immediately.
- **SEARCH, BUT DO NOT TOUCH.** Look carefully under beds, in closets, sheds, pools, containers with lids, and behind doors that may close behind your loved one. Try to touch as little as possible so as not to disturb possible evidence or clues.
- **BE READY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.** List your loved one's full birth name, nickname, and age. Compile caregivers' names, addresses, home and work numbers, and email addresses.
- **BE SPECIFIC WHEN TALKING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.** Give the time and location that your loved one was last seen. Describe your search specifically. If your loved one was abducted in a car, identify its color and body style. If your loved one is diagnosed with dementia, Autism, or other intellectual disability, inform the investigator IMMEDIATELY. If your loved one requires medication, inform law enforcement ASAP.
- **DESCRIBE YOUR LOVED ONE IN GREAT DETAIL.** Have a recent photo of your loved one (digital is best) to give to law enforcement. Provide your loved one's current height, weight, body build, hair color and length, eye color, visible birthmarks, and a description of any disabilities or medications. If you have an ID Kit, provide it. Police receive many false alarms so help them to really know your loved one as you do.
- **WHAT TO EXPECT FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT.** They will ask tough questions and search your loved one's room. They may take some of your loved one's possessions for fingerprinting or DNA analysis. Ask the police for their plan of action and contact them with questions or ideas that may aid in their search. Ask for the Agency Case Number and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) number. Request frequent progress reports and what investigators' next steps will be.
- **CONTACT TEXAS CENTER FOR THE MISSING (TCM). TCM** Staff are available 24/7 to support you during this time of crisis. Visit centerforthemissing.org and complete the GET HELP NOW intake form. Call us at 713.599.0235 or email us at support@tcftm.org.

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centerforthemissing.org

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