



MISSING CHILDREN

SOCIETY OF CANADA

...because the search must continue

The Missing Children Society of Canada is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the active search for abducted and missing children.

Since 1986, MCSC has assisted law enforcement and searching families through professional investigations, public awareness and family support programs.

National Head Office
Suite 219, 3501 - 23 St. NE
Calgary, Alberta
Canada
T2E 6V8

P 403-291-0705
F 403-291-9728
E info@mcsc.ca
W www.mcsc.ca

tips@mcsc.ca
1-800-661-6160

WHAT DO I DO? INFORMATION SERIES

PARENTAL ABDUCTION

The following guidelines provide specific tips for what to do when you know or suspect that your child has been abducted by a family member. These are guidelines only and are not intended to act as legal advice.

- STAY CALM.** Contact neighbours, friends, spouse, siblings and anyone who may know where your child may be. Encourage them to use their telephones to make inquiry calls so your line will remain free for incoming calls.
- File a missing child report, if the telephone and land search has not been successful.** This report is important as it allows the police to place a description of the child who is missing on the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) computer system so all police forces in Canada will know the child is missing. At the request of the investigating police officer, the child may also be entered on the United States system (NCIC)
- Provide the police with the information in your prepared Child Identification Kit.** This kit should include updates clear photographs, foot and fingerprints, birth certificate, medical history, passport, dental records, X-rays, child's name and description including location of scars, birthmarks and any other identifiable data (glasses, braces, earrings, ect.). Try to keep a mental note of what your child is wearing each day.
- If you suspect parental abduction, provide police with photos of the non custodial parent and a copy of the custody order.** Deal with any custody

questions immediately. If custody has not been established, attempt to do so. Find out what your rights are and enforce them.

- Notify police of any special circumstances that indicate clear risk to your child.** This could be your child's special medical or mental condition, drug abuse or mental problems of the abducting parent, previous documented child abuse or violence by the abducting parent, threats of violence against the child by the abducting parent or other special circumstances. Obtain documentation on any medical condition from your child's physician to validate your claim.
- Keep the lines of communications open.** You will want to make yourself available at all times (obtain call waiting and voicemail if you don't have it) in case your child calls.
- Keep a notebook by the phone at all times to record the calls you make and information you get from agencies, friends, relatives, police, etc.** Keep another notebook to record information you receive while out of the house. Make sure to note the caller's full name and phone number in case you have to call them back. This information could possibly help law enforcement agencies with their investigation.
- Contact the Missing Children Society of Canada (1-800-661-6160) and register the missing child.** MCSC will provide support and give you suggestions regarding steps that can be taken to assist in the search of your child.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Attempt to get a copy of the abductor's phone bills to note and follow up on any out-of-area calls.
- Check with hospitals, pediatricians and clinics to see if anyone has brought your child in for treatment.
- "Flag" your child's school records and ask to be notified if a new school requests those records from the old school. This might have to be done in writing.
- "Flag" your child's birth certificate and ask to be notified if anyone requests a copy. Call or go to the records office in the county of your child's birth.
- "Flag" your child's medical and dental records and ask to be notified if anyone requests a copy.
- Question the abductor's employer to see if his/her last paycheck has been forwarded and/or if there have been any requests for job references.
- Check with the abductor's bank to see if an account has been closed or transferred. Ask for law enforcement assistance in tracking any cashed checks or ATM withdrawals.
- Check with the post office to see if mail is being forwarded.
- Contact credit card companies for change of address or transactions that may indicate whereabouts of the abductor.
- Check with airline companies and airport police for child's/abductor's name on any passenger records.
- Check at bus and train stations to see if tickets were purchased by the abductor.
- Check with state Motor Vehicle Bureaus to inquire about car registration and licenses in the name of the abductor. (Some provinces may be required to notify individuals of such inquiries. Check first to be sure the abductor will not be notified of your inquiry.)
- If the abductor's automobile is still being financed, check with the finance company to get current address or where payments are being made from.
- If the abductor is a member of a union, check to see if he/she has advised them of any change of address or if he/she has applied for union work in another location.
- If the abductor is a member of any registry (such as registered nurse or technician), check with registry to see if any change of address has been reported or if he/she has applied for positions or had information sent anywhere.
- Check on change of address for any pension funds.
- "Flag" records which may be requested by the abductor such as court records, insurance policies, passports and visas, college transcripts, military records, voter registration records, medical records, workers' compensation files.
- Remember the abductor's hobbies and interests for clues to a possible destination. Check on magazine subscriptions, club memberships, etc., for address changes or new memberships.
- Check with utility companies in any location where the abductor might have gone to see if he/she has had utilities connected.
- If the abductor is on public assistance of any kind, check with agencies for forwarding address for mailing of check. Check to see if the abductor has applied for public assistance in a new location.
- Check Revenue Canada to see if your child has been claimed as a dependent.

For more detailed information on what to do or what to expect if your child goes missing, please visit the Missing Children Society of Canada website at www.mcsc.ca.