

8.16
CRAIG POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of Chief of Police
General Order

Date Issued: July 25, 1997

Revision Date: April 1, 2009

Subject: Missing- Abducted Persons &
Runaways

Reference:

To: All Officers

I. POLICY:

Assigned officers shall respond to and investigate all reports of missing persons or "runaway" juveniles. The primary concern shall be the immediate safety and the prompt return of the juvenile.

II. DEFINITIONS:

"Abducted Child" - Means a child whose whereabouts are unknown, whose domicile at the time he or she was reported missing was Colorado, whose age at the time he or she was first reported missing was seventeen years of age or younger, and whose disappearance poses a credible threat as determined by local law enforcement to the safety and health of the child.

"Amber Alert Program" - is as defined in Colorado Revised Statute 24-33.5-415.7.

"Emergency Alert System – EAS" – means a system comprised of radio and television broadcasts activated by the state emergency alert station. The EAS system, established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), is a tool the President and others may use to warn the public about emergency situations. For the purposes of this rulemaking, the EAS system will be utilized for the broadcasting of information regarding abducted children.

"Amber Alert Broadcast" – means an EAS notification containing information regarding an abducted child, the suspected abductor, circumstances surrounding the abduction, suspect(s) mode of transportation and/or direction of travel, and any additional information pertaining to the investigation

III. PROCEDURE:

A. If the missing or "runaway" juvenile is ten years of age, or younger, mentally disabled, suffering from known medical problems, has a past history of runaways, a possibility of foul play, left a note, or is under court ordered detention/shelter, or is an abducted child as defined above, or any other reason that would dictate immediate action, an officer shall begin an immediate investigation.

B. Any parent, guardian, legal custodian, or any other person responsible for supervising a juvenile may report that juvenile as abducted, missing or as a runaway.

C. The investigating officer shall ensure that dispatch has entered all abducted, missing juveniles in CCIC/NCIC.

1. In the case of Abducted Children the following procedure will be followed:

- Upon confirmation of a report of an abducted child, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will be notified, as soon as possible, by dispatch and request that the information be conveyed to the bureau for an Amber Alert Broadcast. CBI will provide a designated number to be utilized for contacting their Personnel assigned to assist local law enforcement agencies with the Amber Alert Broadcast. The number is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Voicemail messages should not be left concerning an Amber Alert Broadcast.
- CBI will verify the accuracy of the information based on personal contact with a representative from our agency. The verification of information provided, will include but is not limited to:

1) Confirming the identity of the Law Enforcement Agency and the reporting law enforcement official.

2) Verify that the information being reported meets the definition of "Abducted Child".

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation will then forward the information on to the State Emergency Alert System (EAS) Broadcaster in Colorado. The State EAS Broadcaster is **CLEAR CHANNEL COLORADO located at 4695 S. Monaco Street, Denver Colorado 80237.**

- **CLEAR CHANNEL COLORADO** shall broadcast all appropriate information that may assist in the safe recovery of the abducted child, and a statement instructing anyone with information regarding the abducted child to contact his or her local law enforcement agency. The alert information may contain but is not limited to: **1)** Victims name and identification information to include last known location. **2)** Suspect(s) name and identification information. **3)** Information involving the suspect(s) mode of transportation to include last known location. **4)** Brief description of events leading to the abduction of the child or children. **5)** Information directly related to the safety and health of the child. **6)** Information relating to the safety and welfare of the public.

D. When the juvenile has been taken into custody by this agency, or information that the child has returned home or been taken into custody by another agency, all CCIC/NCIC entries shall be cancelled by dispatch, and CBI notified if the child was abducted

E. The investigating officer shall ensure that dispatch has entered all "runaway" juveniles in CCIC/NCIC.

E. Officers taking juveniles into custody for "runaway" shall transport that juvenile to the police department.

F. The officer shall notify the parent, guardian, or legal custodian that the juvenile has been taken into custody and that they should respond to the police department as soon as possible.

G. A juvenile intake form shall be completed on all juveniles taken into custody for "runaway" incidents.

H. If a runaway, missing juvenile, or abducted juvenile returns home, the parent, guardian, or legal custodian should be requested to bring the juvenile to the police department to close the case. If the parents or CRISIS will not respond the interview may be conducted over the phone.

1. The officer should notify CRISIS to respond and jointly conduct and interview with the juvenile alone (without parents present) to attempt to determine why the juvenile ran away.

2. If the juvenile left home as a result of physical or sexual abuse, the officer shall place that juvenile into protective custody as per 19-3-401 C.R.S. as amended.

I. When a juvenile has been abducted, or is ten years of age, or under, and has been reported as missing or a runaway, an officer shall be required to search for that juvenile. The officer shall be required to sustain the search until the child is located or a supervisor determines that a continued search is no longer warranted.

K. Officers shall take into custody any "out of area" runaways or missing juveniles who are listed as missing or runaway through the CCIC/NCIC computer.

1. The juvenile shall be transported to the police department and the officer shall fill out a juvenile intake form.

2. The reporting agency shall be notified by teletype or by telephone that the juvenile has been taken into custody.

3. The officer shall notify the Moffat County Crisis Intervention Team and request that the "on call" team members respond to the police department to screen the juvenile. The officer shall provide the team members with a photocopy of the juvenile intake form.

III. UNREPORTED RUNAWAYS

A. Any officer who receives information of a juvenile who has runaway and not been reported by a parent, guardian, or legal custodian shall investigate the case as a possible neglect/abuse case.

B. Authority

1. 19-3-102 (1)(a) to (f) defines the parameters of "Neglected or dependent".
2. Officers should investigate possible "unreported" runaways and if the child is in danger as defined by statute, the officer shall place the juvenile into protective custody, pursuant to 19-3-401 and notify the Crisis team to screen the child/juvenile for temporary shelter.

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walter K. Vanatta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W' and 'V'.

**Walter K. Vanatta
Chief of Police**