

Louisville Metro Police Department

Standard Operating Procedures	SOP Number: 12.5
	Effective Date: 07/16/04 Prv. Rev. Date: 02/18/07 Revision Date: 12/14/07
	Accreditation Standards: CALEA: 41.2.6, 82.2.2 KACP: 17.1, 17.5, 17.6, 26.3
Chapter: Special Response	
Subject: Child Abduction – Amber Alert	

12.5 CHILD ABDUCTION – AMBER ALERT

12.5.1 CHILD ABDUCTION RESPONSE PLAN POLICY

It is the policy of the department to quickly and effectively respond to reports of child abduction by activating the America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Alert System (CALEA 41.2.6 a). This shall provide a quick response to critically at-risk children. Once an alert is activated, the media (radio, television and cable networks) and the Trimarc System shall broadcast information on the abduction. The AMBER Alert System actively involves members of the community, thus increasing the probability of a successful rescue.

12.5.2 CRITERIA (CALEA 41.2.6 d)

The AMBER Alert shall be activated if there is sufficient descriptive information about the missing child, suspect or vehicle for an alert to be effective. At least one of the following circumstances must have occurred:

- Investigative information and circumstances support the probability that a child was forcibly abducted, intentionally removed or lured away.
- Information gathered indicates that the child may be in serious danger of bodily harm, sexual exploitation or death.
- Environmental conditions may pose a danger dependant upon the age and development of the child.

Parental abductions involving extenuating circumstances shall be considered on a case-by-case basis. If a situation does not meet the criteria for an Amber Alert, members should consider utilizing Operation Return Home (refer to SOP 8.32, Missing Persons).

12.5.3 FIRST RESPONDING OFFICER

An officer having reasonable suspicion an abduction has occurred shall:

- Request MetroSafe notify the Crimes Against Children Unit (CACU) and inform his/her commanding officer (KACP 17.1, CALEA, 41.2.6 b).
- Complete a Kentucky Missing Persons Report (KACP 17.6, CALEA 41.2.6 e, 82.2.2 a).
- Request a pick up be broadcasted on all radio channels (CALEA 41.2.6 c).
- Request more cars to the area as needed.

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12.5.3 FIRST RESPONDING OFFICER (CONTINUED)

- Contact NCIC so the information may be entered into LINK/NCIC. CACU shall be responsible for contacting NCIC for any cancellations from the system entered under this policy (KACP 26.3, CALEA 41.2.6 c).
- Remain on scene until relieved by CACU.

12.5.4 COMMANDING OFFICER (CALEA 41.2.6 b, KACP 17.5)

A commanding officer shall respond to all reported abductions. They shall ensure that the first responding officer has additional units and ancillary services as needed. They shall be the incident commander until CACU assumes command.

12.5.5 METROSAFE (CALEA 41.2.6 e)

The MetroSafe supervisor shall ensure:

- Two cars and a commanding officer are dispatched on the run (KACP 17.5).
- CACU has been notified.

The MetroSafe supervisor shall fax the Kentucky Missing Persons Form to the Kentucky State Police. CACU shall retain the original Kentucky Missing Persons Form.

12.5.6 CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN UNIT (CACU)

Upon notification an abduction has occurred, a CACU detective shall respond to the scene. CACU shall be the lead in the investigation unless it is a kidnapping for ransom. Homicide shall then lead the investigation. CACU shall still have the responsibility of completing the Kentucky Missing Persons Form. CACU shall distinguish the reported abduction as an AMBER Alert by writing this across the top of the Kentucky Missing Persons Form. CACU shall ensure all information needed to complete this form has been obtained and deliver the completed form to the MetroSafe supervisor. CACU shall be responsible for requesting the initiation and cancellation of AMBER Alerts (CALEA 41.2.6 e). The Kentucky State Police have the final authority to issue and cancel all alerts (CALEA 41.2.6 d).