

How to Recognize an Abducted Child

What to Look For:

- Incomplete or un-forwarded school records.
- No birth certificate.
- No verification of immunization shots and missing medical and dental records.
- The child seems withdrawn or neglected.
- There seems to be inconsistencies in names, dates of birth, addresses and past events.
- The child has academic or behavioral problems. They may lie frequently trying to cover up the truth about their life.
- Attendance at school is often sporadic. They don't take part in after-school activities.
- Attendance at many different schools.
- Reluctance to give school personnel any personal or family information.
- Sometimes they appear confused about their real name and don't seem to trust anyone.
- The child seems fearful of law enforcement.
- The child seems fearful of parent(s) or guardian(s).
- The child may not remember the other parent.
- The other parent may be listed as deceased or unknown or not listed at all on emergency information documents.
- The "parent" may be overprotective and keeps very close tabs on the child's activities, friends and comments.
- The child may have dyed hair or has other appearance modifications.
- The child may not wear properly fitting clothes.
- The child is reluctant to talk about where they lived in the past.
- The child never invites friends to their home.
- Abductors and their victims generally move around a lot to keep from being found out. As a result. Abducted children live a transient life, often living in out-of-the-way cabins and trailer parks. With little sense of stability, they don't make friends or fit in easily.
- You should be sensitive to any "family" situation that doesn't feel right. The most common non-family abductor relationship is a single child with a single man who is passing as the "father" or "grandfather".

If a Child Appears Lost or in Need of Help:

- Be alert and report suspicious activities and situations.
- Do not be afraid to get involved.
- Comfort the child, but use caution in physically touching the child.
- If the child is able to speak, ask if they are lost and where their mom/dad is.
- Do not request too much information, since children are taught not to give out information to people they don't know.
- If you have access to a cell phone, contact the authorities to report the incident.
- Try to find someone in a position of authority nearby who can assist.
- Do not take the child far from the immediate location.

