



## Marin County Sheriff's Office First Responder Check List for Missing Children

- Gather preliminary information, description and size up potential scenarios based on age of missing child and preliminary facts.
- Start to rule out scenarios:
  - Child just late or distracted (not in danger)
  - Miscommunication among adult guardians
  - Lost child (unaware they are lost)
  - Lost child (attempting to self rescue)
  - Child injured (unable to self rescue)
  - Runaway
  - Family abduction
  - Staged abduction to conceal emotional family homicide
  - Stranger abduction
- If you feel the missing child may meet high-risk criteria, call for additional resources. This may include additional patrol officers, detectives and/or a search and rescue activation.
- Start Hasty Search
  - Thoroughly search house and/or Point Last Seen
  - Area parks
  - Vacant lots or near by open space areas
  - Attractive nuisances
  - Water attractions such as pools, creeks or waterways. ***These are a high priority search areas for younger children.***
- Secure house and Point Last Seen (PLS) as a crime scene and remove occupants. This will protect vital trace evidence, scent for dogs and DNA if needed later. Also secure computers in the event that the child met abductor on the Internet.
- Establish a command post at a nearby facility such as Fire Station, community center, church or school, as available. Do not use house or Point Last Seen as C.P.
- Issue county wide B.O.L.
- Issue an Amber Alert - See Marin County Amber Plan
- Obtain Trak flyer information

***Statistics for victims of predator abductions that end in a sexual assault and homicide:***

*58% initially reported as missing children with no foul play obvious*

*74% are killed within 3 hours*

*Only about half are reported missing to Police within 3 hours*

*Due to the low frequency of these crimes, Law Enforcement is often caught off guard*