- ☐ To never walk alone (if possible)/adopt a buddy system.
- ☐ Most importantly, keep an open line of communication between you and your child. Let them know they can come to you at any time for anything.

IF YOUR CHILD IS MISSING

- ☐ Immediately call your law enforcement agency and give a complete report.
- ☐ Contact all family members and friends who may know of your child's whereabouts.
- ☐ Be able to provide a detailed description of the child.
- ☐ Provide a recent photograph, fingerprint card, and all medical and dental records to assist in the location of the child.
- ☐ Contact the missing children information center in your area.
- ☐ Most importantly, **DO NOT PANIC.** Think and keep calm. Your child needs you clear minded to help in their locating.

AS A CITIZEN

- ☐ Encourage your school to establish an absentee reporting system, using volunteers, if necessary.
- ☐ Encourage day care centers and schools to establish policies relating to the releasing of children.
- ☐ Be aware of any person driving or wandering around playgrounds, parks or areas where children congregate.
- ☐ Encourage your legislators to support all bills which strengthen penalties imposed on those who exploit children.
- ☐ Assist in establishing a parent watch program in your neighborhood.

The Missing Persons Unit of the New Hampshire State Police is deeply concerned about the problem of missing children, and is readily available to assist and answer any questions you may have.

For more information, please call:

1-800-852-3411
(In New Hampshire)

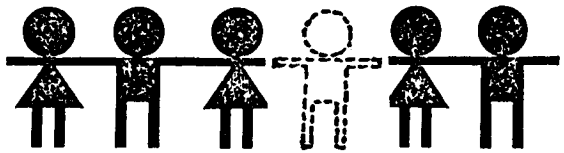
or

603-271-2663

State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
Division of State Police

BE AWARE

Help Protect Our Children



AS A PARENT

- ☐ Do not assume that it can't happen to you.
- ☐ Know who your child's friends are.
- ☐ Never leave your child unattended. Never leave your child alone in a car at any time.
- ☐ Question any gifts or money your child brings home.
- ☐ **LISTEN TO YOUR CHILD.** Be watchful of any strong bond between an adult and your child. If your child does not like to be with someone, find out why.
- ☐ Know how and where you can obtain your child's medical and dental records. Bring your child to the dentist early. Not only does it promote good health habits, but it creates an invaluable record for identification.
- ☐ Have your child fingerprinted and keep the card in a safe place. However, fingerprinting is not an insurance policy to keep your child safe. Update your child's height and weight on an annual basis. This can be done at home as a fun way to keep track of how tall they are getting. Put a piece of masking tape on the inside of a door and mark the tape and date it. Keep a current photograph of your child with you at all times.
- ☐ Interview all new babysitters. Consider asking for personal references.
- ☐ When your child goes out, know where they are going and the time expected home.
- ☐ If your child is riding with friends, know the registration and description of the car.
- ☐ When travelling, know the route your child plans to take.
- ☐ Avoid personalizing clothing and belongings on the outer side.
- ☐ Be cognizant of what your child was wearing when leaving the house for the day.
- ☐ **DON'T** threaten your child about the police "taking them away" if they misbehave. If they need help, children should go to the uniform, rather than a stranger on the street.

TEACH YOUR CHILD

- ☐ Their full name, address, and telephone number including area code.
- ☐ How to make a long distance telephone call.
- ☐ That a stranger is someone they and you don't know, or don't know well.
- ☐ Never go into anyone's home without permission.
- ☐ Never go near a car with a stranger in it. If someone approaches your child in a car as they are walking, tell them to turn around and walk, or run, in the opposite direction.
- ☐ To tell you if someone asks them to keep a secret.
- ☐ To tell you if someone offers them candy, money, a gift or wants to take their picture.
- ☐ Should they become separated from you in a store, to go to the checkout for help.
- ☐ Help your child to distinguish between them going to an adult for help, and an adult coming to them. Adults should seek out other adults for assistance, not children.
- ☐ Teach your child to be observant of his/her surroundings and the people they come in contact with.
- ☐ Have your child call you if there's been a change in plans or a time when they are to be home. To tell you they'll be late.
- ☐ If a stranger bothers them, they should scream, make a lot of noise and run.
- ☐ To never tell anyone they are home alone, either over the phone or in person.
- ☐ If they are alone, they should lock the door and never answer the door to a stranger.
- ☐ Teach your child about tricks someone may use to get them to go with them.
- ☐ Use only streets and routes of travel known to them and you.
- ☐ Help your children to be able to make decisions and take charge of a situation. Help them to be able to make choices between what is safe and unsafe. They have the right to say "NO" to an uncomfortable situation. They have the right to ask questions, too.
- ☐ If someone touches or attempts to touch them, tell them to tell you. Children rarely lie about these things.
- ☐ Teach your child to scream "I don't know you" if someone attempts to force them to accompany them.
- ☐ Teach your child to use caution when alone in a public restroom. If they are approached suspiciously, they should leave immediately. If someone prohibits this, they should scream.