

**CHECKLIST FOR SEARCHING PARENTS:****When Your Child Has Been Abducted by a Stranger**

***If this is an emergency, CALL 911.***

*While this checklist will help guide the search for your child, it is important that all actions you take are done so in consultation with the police.*

## **IMMEDIATE STEPS**

- 1.** Call 911. Make sure you have on hand photographs of your child and information about your child. When you talk to the police, make sure you get the following information from law enforcement:
  - The incident number;
  - The name of the officer taking the report; and
  - A number to call for follow up.
- 2.** If your child has a cell phone, tell the police. Let them know who is your child's cell phone service provider — service providers may be able to track down the cell tower/Global Positioning System (GPS) information with regard to your child's cell phone.
- 3.** Then call 1-866-KID-TIPS or fill out the A CHILD IS MISSING form at *MissingKids.ca*.



**While You are Waiting for the Responding Officer...**

# GATHER PRIMARY INFORMATION

1. Gather a recent photograph of your child and complete the following description of your child:\*

Recent photograph <input type="checkbox"/>
Eye colour:
Hair colour:
Height:
Weight:
Clothing your child was last seen wearing:
Other physical characteristics (such as braces, glasses, piercings, tattoos, scars, marks, etc.):
Location where your child was last seen:

\*If you do not have a recent close-up photograph of your child, *MissingKids.ca* may be able to obtain their most recent school photo from Lifetouch.

2. Quickly search your house and contact relevant family and friends.
3. Look around your house and your child's room to see if anything is missing. If there are things missing, make a list for law enforcement. It is also important to tell the police if nothing is missing.
4. Take a moment to consider if there have been any new people that have shown up recently in your lives, someone who may have wanted to cause you harm, or any risky lifestyle choices you might have taken recently. This information will help police narrow their search and could possibly lead to the quicker location of your child.



## AFTER SPEAKING WITH THE RESPONDING OFFICER...

1. Ask the police if they wish to examine your child's or your family's household computer and do not use these computers until you know law enforcement's response. Sometimes valuable evidence can be destroyed just by using the computer.
2. Use another computer, that is neither your child's nor your family's household computer to search for your child's social networking pages (e.g. Facebook®, Twitter®, MySpace®, etc.) to check for activity. If you don't know how to do this, a *MissingKids.ca* caseworker may be able to assist you. If you do know how to do this, write down your child's username and password.

Write down your child's:

Facebook username:	Password:
Twitter username:	Password:
MySpace username:	Password:
Email address #1:	Password:
Email address #2:	Password:
Cell phone number:	Service provider:

If you do not know your child's usernames or passwords, the police may be able to gain access to their accounts or obtain information about any activity on their accounts through other means.

## CONTACT OTHER PEOPLE FOR INFORMATION

1. Depending on the age of your child, check with your child's employer or place where your child volunteered to see if they have seen or heard anything.
2. Ask friends of your child for other possible contact numbers to call in search of your child.
3. Speak to the parents of your child's friends and inform them of the situation. Ask them to call the designated number if they hear or see anything.
4. Make a list of your child's favourite places in the community. Have someone you trust visit these locations to verify that they are not there, and to ask if anyone has seen your child. Provide this person with a photograph and description of your child and have them consider leaving a photograph and description of your child at such locations in case your child turns up there. If there are concerns about publicly displaying your child's information, remember that your child's photograph and description do not need to be posted out in a public area — it could be posted in a location where only staff can see it.

## MANAGING THE PHONES

1. Use the phone log sheet to track everyone who is calling. Keep a notepad by the phone to write down any additional information such as messages from supports, important contact information, thoughts, concerns, etc. It is also important to consider who is not calling the house who would typically do so.
2. Review phone bills, caller display logs and cell phone bills for phone numbers you do not recognize.
3. Make sure there is someone always available to answer phone calls. It is a good idea to get a good friend or family member to do this. Some people calling the house may not have good intentions, or may be looking to exploit your situation. Before taking action on any information provided to you, contact law enforcement for guidance.

## WHEN YOUR CHILD IS LOCATED

Please visit [www.missingkids.ca/strangerabduction/whenyourchildcomeshome](http://www.missingkids.ca/strangerabduction/whenyourchildcomeshome) for more information.

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# PHONE LOG

Caller name:	Time:	Phone # :	Relationship to child/family:	Reason for calling:
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If a Community Response Plan is in operation, ask your Family Liaison to file this sheet with the Historian daily.