

SUBJECT: Missing Persons and Amber Alert Investigations	POLICY NO: 306.1-306.5				
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REVISION DATE: 12/29/2016 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Attachment Master Amber Alert Packet					

306.1 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish responsibilities and guidelines for the investigation of missing persons.

306.2 POLICY:

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office will investigate reports of missing persons to the fullest extent possible with the intent to locate the person as soon as possible.

306.3 **DEFINITIONS**:

<u>Arizona Child Abduction Alert Plan ("Plan"):</u> A program established in memory of all children who have been abducted or kidnapped. The Arizona Broadcasters Association and local law enforcement agencies have created the Plan to provide the public with timely information about area child abductions or children missing under dangerous circumstances.

Exigent Circumstances: Situations that demand unusual or immediate action.

<u>Dangerous Circumstances:</u> Situations able or likely to inflict injury.

<u>Alert Plan Stations:</u> Those television and radio stations participating in the Arizona Child Abduction Alert Plan.

306.4 GENERAL RULES

I. REPORTING

- A. There is no waiting period for reporting a missing person. Missing person reports shall be taken in-person, by telephone or at Yuma County Sheriff's Office Main Office or any substation location. Those reports shall be taken in conformity with the criteria of this policy and the criticality of the incident.
- B. A person may be declared missing when his/her whereabouts are unknown and unexplained for a period of time and that absence is highly unusual or

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suspicious in consideration of the subject's normal behavior patterns, plans or routines. The following criteria should be considered in determining the course of the investigation.

- 1. Is the subject a victim of foul play;
- 2. The age of the subject and their ability to care for themselves;
- 3. Does the subject suffer from diminished mental capacity or medical conditions that are potentially life threatening;
- 4. Is the subject a resident of a care facility and may be a danger to themselves or others;
- 5. Has the subject demonstrated the potential for suicide;
- 6. Has the subject been involved in a boating, swimming or other sporting accident;
- 7. Has the subject been involved in a manmade or natural disaster;
- 8. Has contact been made with the local hospital for admission inquires;
- 9. Has contact been made with the Yuma County Adult Detention and/or Juvenile Detention for inquiries of in custody status.
- C. Reports of juveniles who have voluntarily left home, i.e. runaways, should be classified as such only after thorough investigation.
- D. Based on the outcome of initial inquires, a decision shall be made concerning the potential danger to the missing person and the urgency of the police response.

II. <u>INITIAL REPORT TAKING</u>

- A. The initial report taker must gather as much pertinent information as possible in order to properly classify the missing person report and initiate a response. This includes but is not limited to the following information:
 - 1. Name, age and physical description of the subject and relationship of the reporting party to the missing person;
 - 2. Last know time and place of the missing person and who they may have been with;
 - 3. The extent of any search for the missing person;

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- 4. Whether the missing person has been missing before and the degree to which the absence departs from established behavior patterns, habits or plans;
- 5. Whether the missing person has been involved any of the following:
 - a. Recent domestic incident;
 - b. Suffered emotional trauma or life crisis;
 - c. Demonstrated unusual, uncharacteristic or bizarre behavior;
 - d. Is dependent on drugs or alcohol;
 - e. Has a history of mental illness;
 - f. The current physical condition of the subject and whether the person is currently on prescription medication.
- B. If the missing person is a child, inquiry should also determine:
 - 1. If the child is or may be with any adult who could cause them harm;
 - 2. If the child may have been the subject of a parental abduction;
 - 3. If the child has previously run away from home, has threatened to do so or has a history of explainable or unexplainable absences for extended periods of time;
 - 4. An investigating officer who has reason to believe a child is abducted will verify the details with a supervisor on duty;
 - 5. The supervisor will determine if the criteria for an Amber Alert has been satisfied and if so, shall activate the Arizona Amber Alert System.

 That criteria includes:
 - a. Child is 17 years of age or younger;
 - b. Child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death;
 - c. There is enough descriptive information about the child, the suspect and/or the suspect vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help locate the child.

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III. AMBER ALERT

- A. A designated point of contact will be established. The name and identifying information of the designated point of contact will be filed with the Arizona Child Abduction Alert Plan Committee.
- B. When evaluating the abduction of a child, the following criteria **must be met**:
 - 1. The "Arizona Child Abduction Alert Plan" should be activated when a child 17 years of age or younger is abducted and there is reason to believe the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.

Or

A child medically diagnosed as suffering mental or physical disability is missing or abducted and there is reason to believe the child is in imminent danger or serious bodily injury or death.

- There is information available to disseminate to the general public which could assist in the safe recovery of the child and/or apprehension of a suspect.
- C. The "Amber Alert Checklist" shall be completed in all circumstances involving a missing/abducted child. (See attached, "Amber Alert Checklist")
- D. In the case of abduction or exigent circumstance and the incident meets the Plan criteria as outlined above the Duty Supervisor will:
 - Notify the ranking Patrol Administrator and the Public Information Officer (PIO). The ranking Patrol Administrator or his designee will respond to the crime scene command post and coordinate efforts with on-scene personnel and responding detective. The ranking Patrol Administrator will designate personnel to respond to the Dispatch Center to receive incoming telephone calls from the public responding to the Alert. The telephones will be manned until such time as the Alert is cancelled or until relieved by the ranking Patrol Administrator or PIO.
 - 2. The Public Information Officer (PIO) or designated supervisor will contact the Arizona Department of Public Safety at (602) 223-2911 and advise that the Office is initiating the Arizona Child Abduction Alert.
 - a. When notifying D.P.S. a password will be required.
 - The call will be forwarded to one of the designated Alert Plan
 Stations:

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- i. Information about the child and the suspect will be provided.
- ii. Give the telephone number which the public can call and provide information.
- iii. A recent photo of the child will be emailed to the Alert Plan Station. The photo will be scanned in .jpeg format and less than 1Mb in size.
- iv. The Alert Plan Station will then activate the Plan through the Emergency Alert System and provide contact information.
- 3. The ranking Patrol Administrator, PIO, or on-duty supervisor will contact the Dispatch Center and ensure a state-wide NLETS message is sent to all agencies with complete details of the incident and notification that the Plan has been initiated.
- 4. The Alert Plan Stations will then deliver the information to all radio and television stations in Arizona and will broadcast it every fifteen (15) minutes for two (2) hours, then one time per half-hour for the next three (3) hours. If the child is recovered and the Alert needs to be cancelled during the activation period of the Alert, the originating agency must make the appropriate notification to the Alert Plan Stations as soon as possible.
- If additional information becomes available that is significant to the case and of
 potential use by the public, an update may be made through the Alert Plan.
 Updated information may be provided by the ranking Patrol Administrator, the
 PIO or the designated supervisor.
- 6. The ranking Patrol Administrator, PIO or designee will be the designated point of contact for post-activation and administrative responsibilities of the Plan, and responsible for:
 - a. Submitting a summary report outlining the activation of the Plan to the Arizona Child Abduction Alert Plan Committee within thirty (30) days of activation. The report may be sent by U.S. Mail or facsimile and will be forwarded to:

Arizona Broadcasters Association Arizona Child Abduction Alert Plan 202 North Third Street Phoenix, Arizona 85004 FAX: (602) 252-5265

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- Presenting a briefing to the Arizona Child Abduction Alert Plan
 Committee at their first scheduled meeting following the activation of the plan.
- c. Coordinating and providing yearly training to Office personnel.

IV. <u>SILVER ALERT</u>

- A. A designated point of contact will be established. That designated point of contact will request the activation of the Silver Alert System if the following conditions are met (outlined in A.R.S. 41-1728):
 - The missing person is sixty-five years of age or older has Alzheimer's disease or Dementia.
 - 2. The Sheriff's Office:
 - a. Has used all available local resources.
 - b. Has determined that the person has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.
 - c. Believes that the missing person is in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment and/or weather conditions, or that the missing person is in the company of a potentially dangerous person or that there are other factors indicating that the missing person may be in peril.
 - 3. There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

V. <u>Preliminary Investigation</u>

- A. The preliminary investigation is intended to gather additional information and take steps that will aid in the search for the location of a missing person. Information to be gathered includes but is not limited to:
 - 1. A complete description of the missing person and a recent photograph;
 - 2. Details of any physical or emotional problems;
 - 3. Identity of the last person(s) to have seen the missing person as well as friends, relatives, coworkers, or associates who were or may have been in contact with the missing person prior to disappearance;

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- 4. Plans, habits, routines and personal interests of the missing person including places frequented or locations of particular significance;
- 5. Indications of missing personal belongings, money and other valuables;
- 6. Any suggestions of foul play or accident;
- 7. In the case of missing children, officers shall be particularly cognizant of information that may suggest the potential for parental abduction or the possibility of stranger abduction.
 - a. The presence of behavioral problems;
 - b. Past instances of running away;
 - c. Signs of an abusive environment or dysfunctional family situation;
 - d. Whether the child is believed to be with adults who may pose a danger;
 - e. The name and location of the school attended by the child and any personnel who may be responsible for transportation to and from the location.
- 8. When possible, officers should gain permission to search a missing child's home and school locker.
- 9. Upon verification of a missing person the information shall be entered into state and national information databases in accordance with established procedures, i.e. NCIC and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
- 10. Entry into the state and national information databases must be completed within two (2) hours of the initial investigation to comply with database requirements.

VI. ONGOING INVESTIGATION

- A. Ongoing investigations of missing persons should include but not be limited to the following actions and activities:
 - 1. Request release of dental records and any fingerprints or DNA available;
 - 2. Contact hospitals and the coroner's office as appropriate for injured or deceased persons fitting the description of the missing person;
 - Thoroughly check the location at which the missing person was last seen and conduct interviews as appropriate with persons who were with the individual or who may work in or frequent the area;

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- 4. Conduct interviews with any additional family, friends, work associates, schoolmates and teachers as well as school counselors and case workers, as appropriate, to explore the potential for foul play, voluntary flight, or, in the case of juveniles, parental kidnapping or running away;
- 5. Provide identification and related information from other law enforcement agencies;
- 6. Use local media as needed;
- 7. Maintain contact with the reporting person, i.e. parent, guardian, spouse, etc.

VII. Recovery of Missing Person(s) and Case Closure

- A. Competent adults, having left home for personal reasons, cannot be forced to return home. Officers locating such individuals shall:
 - 1. Advise them that they are the subject of a missing person investigation;
 - 2. Ask if they desire the reporting party or next-of-kin to be notified of their whereabouts;
 - 3. Make provisions for the notification of this information to the reporting person as appropriate.
- B. Missing person(s) shall be questioned to establish the circumstances surrounding their disappearance and whether criminal activity was involved.
- C. In cases involving juveniles, officers shall ensure that:
 - 1. The juvenile receives medical attention if necessary;
 - 2. Referral is made to appropriate social agencies;
 - 3. The parent, guardians and/or the person reporting the missing youth are notified.
- D. Upon location of a missing person, a cancellation of the missing person report will be made and notification made to all agencies and information systems previously contacted.
- E. Where appropriate, criminal charges shall be filed with the prosecutor's office.

306.5 **AMENDMENT**:

This policy is subject to amendment, revision or rescission, as required.

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CASE #: 20____
DUTY OFFICER _____

REQUESTING AGENCY INFO:

Contacting Investigator:		
Investigator badge number:		
Today's Date:	Time:	
Agency Requesting Alert:		
Agency ORI:		
Agency Report #:		
LEO Contact name:		
Phone number:		
Email:		
24/7 Public point of Contact:		
Public Phone number:		
Date Subject went Missing:	Time:	
Date LEO Agency Notified:	Time:	





AMBER Alert Checklist

The Arizona AMBER Alert Plan requires Arizona AMBER Alert activations meet the following criteria when evaluating a child abduction. Law Enforcement Agencies must have all criteria listed below before activation can occur. The Arizona AMBER Alert Plan activation criteria is as follows and based on Department of Justice Protect Act of 2003, Public Law 108-21:

1. A law enforcement agency has determined that the child is not a runaway and has not been abducted as a

	result of a child of bodily harm or de	custody dispute, unless the ceath to the child.	dispute poses	a credible and o	or specific threat of	of serious
	YES	NO				
	Explain:					
2.	The abduction po	oses a credible threat of imn	nediate dange	er of serious bod	ily injury of deat	h to the child.
	Explain:					
3.	An abduction of	a child (under 18) has occur	rred.	Date:	Time:	hrs
	YES	NO				
4.		nt descriptive information all indicate that the activation of				•
5.		NO tion available to disseminate hild and/or the apprehensio			n could assist in th	ne safe
	YES	NO				

STOP HERE IF THE INCIDENT DOES NOT MEET THE CRITERIA

*If the agency's representative insists on proceeding with the activation, please inform them that the Duty Office strongly discourages activation because facts, as presented, surrounding this incident do not support the foregoing criteria as established by the Department of Justice.

*The requesting agency may proceed with an Endangered Persons Advisory through their local media outlets. The Duty Office can further assist them by putting them in touch with ACTIC.

*The Duty Officer shall prepare a **brief** of Duty Office personnel regarding the denied request, reasons for request being denied and other resources offered. This page will suffice for noting reasons for an activation request denial.





The following information is required prior to AMBER Alert Activation

MISSING CHILD/ SUSPECT INFORMATION

If requesting agency is from another state, request a copy of the flyer be sent to **Duty Office**, **KTAR**, and **ACTIC**.

Child #1:			Age:	DOB:	SSN	J/ID#
Height:	Weight:	_ Hair:	Ey	/es:	Race:	I/ID# NIC #
Clothing:						
Last Known A	Address/Locat	ion of abdu	iction:			
Vehicle Color	Year_	Make	Model	Body	License	State
Summary/Circ	cumstances:					
Child #2:			Age:	DOB:	SSN	J/ID# NIC #
Height:	Weight:	_ Hair:	Ey	/es:	Race:	NIC #
Clothing:						
Last Known A	Address/Locat	ion of abdu	iction:			
Vehicle Color	Year	Make	Model	Body	License	State
Height:	Weight:	_ Hair:	Ey	/es:	Race:	J/ID# NIC #
Clothing:						
Last Known A	Address/Locat	ion of abdu	ıction:			
Vehicle Color	Year	Make	Model	Body	License	State
Summary/Circ	cumstances:					
						air/Eyes
						NIC #
Physical/Cloth	ing Desc					
Scars/Marks/T	attoos					
	olorYe Damage/Other I	Markings	keMode	•	License	State



Suspect #2:______Age/DOB_____ Ht/Wt ___/__ Hair/Eyes___ ___



-	_							
Vehicle:		Year Other Mark		Model	Body	License	State	
☐ Found	Before Acti	vation [] No Activa	ation/Criter	ia Not Met			
			Time C	ompleted: _				
Ask for the Telephone (If asked, C	Communic number doe CART is a M	ations Sup sn't work (Iulti-Jurisd	ervisor on I call 602-876 ictional res _l	Outy. You: 5-1011 then ponse team	need the CA n 480-442-27 tasked with	RT team Sergea 784. If nothing assisting other	AZ CART # 602- ant Called out. If the works document it pagencies on missing all resolution of the	ne above please. g & abducted
			Time Co	ompleted: _				





***ACTIVA	The following steps shall be followed during an AMBER Alert Activation
Step No. 1	 If requesting agency is in Arizona, request agency rep place the child/suspect into ACIS/NIC. Record NIC #'s for each child/suspect on the Missing Child/Suspect Information Sheet.
	If requesting agency is outside of Arizona <u>and</u> there is credible evidence the child is in Arizona, advise requesting agency rep to report the child missing into their state system/NCIC. Then, record NIC #'s for each child/suspect on the Missing Child/Suspect Information Sheet.
	If agency requests AMBER Alert issued outside Arizona, advise them to contact the respective state.
	Time Completed:
Step No. 2	Login online at www.alertsense.com/client-login (see alertsense checklist) (Username: azdpsdutyoffice Password: dpssecure618!)
	-Enter information OR check information if submitting agency has already entered information -Enter relevant information, including updated location -ACTIVATE AMBER ALERT Time Completed:
Step No. 3	Advise Phoenix OpComm Center that APB and/or BOLO is upgraded to AMBER Alert. Email the BOLO/Flyer and Page 3 to: Alerts bolo/Flyer Notification Group (includes Dispatch, Intelligence & ACTIC).
	Time Completed:
Step No. 4	Host conference call with requesting agency, ADOT (602) 252-0503 & KTAR (602) 263-5556. ***Do not skip to Step 5 unless there was no contact with KTAR.*** Time Completed:
Step No. 5	Send e-mail to Alert Notification AMBER Recipients and Alerts after hours Media Contacts. Print.
	Time Completed:
Step No. 6	 Mobile PD entry A. Log on to: https://live.gomobilepd.com/ Our email address is: doffice@azdps.gov Password: MobilePD1234! B. Click on "+", Click on green icon C. Title: AMBER ALERT − "LAST NAME OF VICTIM(s)/AGENCY NAME" D. Narrative:
	Today at hours, DOB Last seen in the area of Suspect DOB in color of vehicle, type of vehicle, state plate #. See National Center for Missing and Exploit Children Website for further information and photos: http://www.missingkids.com/home.





	Time Completed:
Step No. 7	☐ Complete Case File Include Missing Child photo and report, SSN/ ID info, Vehicle and Suspect Info if available, agency representative, agency and DR#, ACTIC bulletin if applicable, and other info.
	Time Completed:
Step No. 8	Log data into AMBER Alert Stats Log. Forward Case File to Duty Office Supervisor
	Time Completed:
	et the investigating agency for current updates on the Tracking Form at the 24 hour, 48 hour, days), one week, and two week intervals, etc. ***

END ACTIVATION CHECKLIST





DE	ACT	IVA	rio Ciro	N
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The following steps shall be followed during an AMBER Alert Deactivation

		C 1 C
Step No. 1	□ Co	onfirm AMBER Alert Cancellation with original requesting agency.
	Do	ocument circumstances of how missing child was located in AMBER Alert Log as follows:
		What time was the child found/recovered?
	,	Where (location) was the child recovered?
		Location address or cross streets
		How did the agency learn of the missing person's location?
	d)	Were there any arrests made for this incident, if so, by who, and what charges?
	e)	Obtain name & phone number of contact investigator from investigating agency (if different from original caller.)
	f)	Obtain the name and phone number of the recovering agency
	g)	Was the missing person located as a result of the Amber Alert, how?
		Was the recovery a result of the AlertBOLO/APB or Other (Y or N).
		Date & Time of Contact: @ hours.
		Duct & Time of Contact.
		Was the AZ CART Team Called by the requesting agency (Y or N)
	i)]	Did the AZ CART Team respond to the AMBER Alert(Y or N)
Recovery St	ımmarv	
Recovery 50	amma y.	
Step No. 2		otify KTAR and Phoenix OpComm Center of Cancelled AMBER Alert. otify ADOT if alert was cancelled within four hours of activation.
	110	
		Time Completed:
Step No. 3	□ De	eactivate DPS AMBER Alert @ www.alertsense.com/client-login (Do NOT Delete)
	In	clude a short summary as needed.
		Time Completed:





Step No. 4	
	Time Completed:
Step No. 5	☐ Deactivate Mobile PD Alert/Cancelation Message.
	A. Log on to: https://live.gomobilepd.com/
	Our email address is: doffice@azdps.gov
	Password: MobilePD1234!
	B. Click on green icon
	C. Write "CANCELLED" followed by original header from activation
	D. Narrative:
	"Today at hours, the AMBER Alert was cancelled. See National Center for Missing and
	Exploited Children Website for further information: http://www.missingkids.com/home ."
	Time Completed:
Step No. 6	☐ Finalize Amber Alert Folder and Log.
	Time Completed:
	(DEMEMBED: Complete ALL pages of this packet upon recovery)

END DEACTIVATION CHECKLIST

8





NAME	E:		
DATE	•		
AGEN	CY:	·	
24 HOURS DATE:	TIME:	REQUESTING AGENCY CONTACT:	_
DUTY OFFICE	R/SGT:		_
STATUS:		REQUESTING AGENCY CONTACT:	_
DUTY OFFICEI	R/SGT:		<u> </u>
STATUS:		REQUESTING AGENCY CONTACT:	_
DUTY OFFICE	R/SGT:		_
STATUS:	TIME:	REQUESTING AGENCY CONTACT:	_
DUTY OFFICEI			
		REQUESTING AGENCY CONTACT:	-
DUTY OFFICEI	R/SGT:		_ _





STATUS:		
DATE: STATUS:	TIME:	REQUESTING AGENCY CONTACT:
DUTY OFFIC	ER/SGT:	
STATUS:		REQUESTING AGENCY CONTACT:
STATUS:		REQUESTING AGENCY CONTACT:
DUTY OFFIC	EER/SGT:	
STATUS:		REQUESTING AGENCY CONTACT:
DUTY OFFIC	ER/SGT:	





Case # 2	0
Reviewi	ng Alert Coordinator
Reviewi	ng Supervisor:
Supervis	sor Reviewed Date:
	etion Survey & email to CTapp@NCMEC.ORG Brooks (By Reviewing Coordinator only.)
Date Con	mpleted Time
ATTACHMENTS:	CHECKLISTS (Activation and Deactivation)
	ACTIC Email
	Flyer/Bulletin/Website
	Photos of Missing Person/Suspect/Investigative Lead
	ACIC Missing Person/DL/ID/Vehicle Record
	MISC. (press reports, agency reports, etc.)
	TRACKING LOGS