



Standard for Public Safety Telecommunicators when Responding to Calls of Missing, Abducted and Sexually Exploited Children

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Only **highlighted text** is open for Public Review and Comment. For reference only, the entire draft can be found [here](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY {...} FBI statistics show over 350,000 NCIC entries for missing or **endangered** children each year, with run aways as the majority of cases. {...} **In 2020, 1** in 6 of the missing children report to NCMEC who had run away were likely child sex trafficking victims.

INTRODUCTION {...} This standard is recommended for use in concert with the following NCMEC publications: 5. Investigative Checklist for Law Enforcement When Responding to Missing Children **on the Autism Spectrum**

2.2.1.5.2 A missing child whose young age inherently puts the child at increased risk or whose young age makes it inappropriate to categorize as an **endangered** runaway, even if the child is missing on his or her own accord.

Chapter 3 Developing a Policy for Emergency Communications Centers Response to Missing, Abducted and Sexually Exploited Children {...}

28 3.2.2 {...} The Model Policy covers critically important procedural considerations for
29 PSTs, first responding field officers, field supervisors and case investigators and
30 attempts to present the response process in a logical progression from case intake
31 through first field response and case investigation through recovery and case
32 closure.

33 4.2 {...} 4.2.1.2 Obtain information on the location and nature of the emergency
34 (initial intake elements) which shall be asked as the first step when using each of the
35 Call Intake Protocols (Abduction, LIMs, Endangered Runaway/Abandoned).

36 Chapter 5 Call Intake Protocols: Scope: The following protocols for call intake are
37 intended to create a framework for the best possible call handling and first response
38 outcomes in response to Abduction, LIMs, and Endangered Runaway/Abandoned
39 incidents.

40 5.1.3.5 Known Endangered Runaway/Abandoned: A child is known to have run away
41 or been abandoned.

42 5.2.3.13 Does the child have any known intellectual, developmental or physical
43 disabilities or mental health disorders?

44 5.4 Endangered Runaway and Abandoned Call Intake Protocol

45 5.4.1 A Note on Handling Endangered Runaway Incidents

46 5.4.1.1 ECCs consistently acknowledge the complexities and logistical concerns
47 associated with effective and diligent handling of calls reporting Endangered
48 Runaway children , especially those who have been labeled as “habitual” runaways.
49 Many ECCs/departments struggle with performing comprehensive intake and
50 incident management in light of the volume and/or frequency of these endangered
51 runaway reports.

52 5.4.1.2 In designing the protocol for reports of endangered runaway and abandoned
53 children, a focus on providing the most comprehensive framework for intake of
54 critically important information has been applied.

55 5.4.2.11 {...} How many times has the child run away or been reported missing?
56 Were there any special or specific circumstances associated with the child’s previous
57 missing incidents?

58 5.4.3.13 Does the child have any known intellectual, developmental or physical
59 disabilities or mental health disorders?

60 5.4.6 Additional Work with Endangered Runaway/Abandoned Incident Information:

61 5.5.1.2 {...} Missing, abducted, endangered runaway/abandoned and exploited child
62 policies and operational procedures.

63 Chapter 6: 6.1.3 {...} It is a federal crime to knowingly recruit, entice, harbor,
64 transport, provide or obtain, advertise, maintain, patronize or solicit by any means a

65 child under the age of 18 to engage in commercial sex act. It is also illegal to benefit,
66 either financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a
67 **commercial** sex act. (18 U.S.C. §1591)

68 6.1.2.4 {...} It is a federal crime for a U. S. **resident** to travel to another country
69 intending to engage in sexual activity with a child under the aged of 18 that would
70 be illegal if it occurred in the U.S. (18 U.S.C. §2423).

71 6.2.2 **All** protocols should align with the required information for all responders and
72 stake holders.

73 Chapter 7: 7.3.1 If the reporting person has information about a suspect, such as a
74 trafficker, **sex buyer** or information about the child victim, ask the series of
75 questions noted below based upon the child's status.

76 7.6.2.1 Federal law (18 U.S.C. §2258A) requires electronic service providers (ESPs) to
77 **report apparent child pornography to NCMEC's CyberTipline when they become**
78 **aware of it.**

79 Appendix: NCMEC Resources: Reporting Missing Children {...} assist **deaf or hard of**
80 **hearing** callers and coordinates access to communicate with callers in more than 200
81 different languages;

82 Appendix: Assisting in Missing Child Cases: Overview: NCMEC is ready to assist
83 families, **caregivers**, and law enforcement agencies 24 hours a day. {...} NCMC is
84 prepared to assist in all missing child cases, particularly when a child has been
85 missing for a long period of time, was abducted internationally by a parent or **is on**
86 **the Autism Spectrum.**

87 Acronyms and Abbreviations: AA: **AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance**
88 **Program**

89 Glossary: {...} Federal Definition of Child Pornography: **Federal Law criminalizes visual**
90 **depictions of a minor (anyone younger than the age of 18) engaged in sexually**
91 **explicit conduct. Possessing, manufacturing, producing or distributing child**
92 **pornography is a federal crime. In addition, all states have similar laws criminalizing**
93 **child pornography. Please review the state statues in your jurisdiction. Note: Nude**
94 **images of children may constitute child pornography.**