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## Presidential Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives Operation Lady Justice

### MISSING PERSON CLEARINGHOUSES

The *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974* was amended in 1985 to provide States with assistance to either establish and operate or to expand and operate statewide clearinghouses for information regarding missing and exploited children.

Missing child clearinghouses exist or are developing in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, providing resources to missing children and their families as well as professionals who work with them. Each state determines the location of the clearinghouses within a state agency, as well as the scope of services, training protocols, and data collection according to their own laws and codes.

Many states expanded the missing child clearinghouse to include adults, missing endangered adults, and/or missing persons with dementia or other mental disabilities.

Missing child/person clearinghouses provide a wide range of services through collaboration with a variety of agencies, including local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies to:

- Report and identify missing and unidentified persons
- Maintain a database of missing persons
- Disperse information into state and national databases
- Provide assistance to the public
- Collaborate with other state clearinghouses and NCMEC when children are unlawfully taken out of or brought into the state
- Develop missing person training programs
- Provide (when available) online, searchable lists of the state's current missing persons
- Provide missing person alerts including AMBER and state-specific alerts (not all state clearinghouses issue alerts)



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Each state varies in which agencies and offices house the alert programs, including clearinghouses. All states utilize AMBER Alerts but other types of alerts may be developed through state legislation. Missing Endangered Person Alerts (MEPAs) are generally for any person missing under unexplained, involuntary, or suspicious circumstances and believed to be in danger. However, the circumstances do not meet AMBER Alert criteria. The Silver Alert was developed for older adults who are missing, particularly those with Alzheimer's or dementia. Blue Alerts were developed for help in locating assailants in the event a law enforcement officer is injured or killed. Green Alerts have been developed for at-risk missing veterans.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) supports each clearinghouse with resources including current missing children information, data and reports, training, and technical assistance. NCMEC also provides support to families who have missing children. For more information on resources and training available through NCMEC, visit [www.missingkids.org](http://www.missingkids.org). For a list of each state's clearinghouse website, visit <https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/clearinghouses>.



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