

## For Law-Enforcement Professionals

### What May **NCMEC** Do For You?

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (**NCMEC**), per 42 U.S.C. §§ 5771 *et seq.*; 42 U.S.C. § 11606; and 22 C.F.R. § 94.6, has assembled a remarkable team of professionals with vast law-enforcement experience providing **free** services and resources including

- Technical Case Assistance
- 24-Hour, Toll-Free Hotline/ Online CyberTipline®
- Leads/Sightings and Information Dissemination
- Photograph and Poster Preparation and Rapid Distribution
- LOCATER™
- Age Enhancement, Facial Reconstruction, and Image/ Identification Services
- Case Analysis Services
- Queries and Database Searches
- Educational Materials and Publications
- Expert Investigative On-Site Assistance
- Cold Case Unit
- Forensic Services
- AMBER Alert

**1-800-THE-LOST®**  
(1-800-843-5678)

[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)

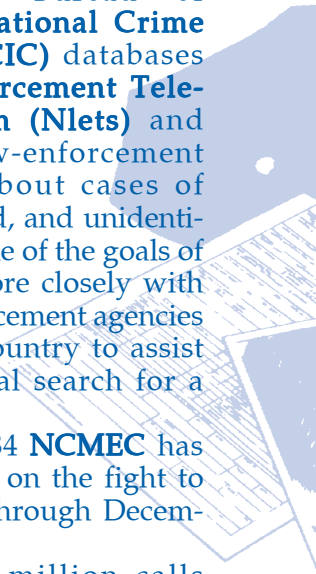


The **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children** is the congressionally mandated resource center for child protection in the United States. Working with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as the national clearinghouse for information about cases of abducted, runaway, and/or sexually exploited children, **NCMEC** is a powerful **free** resource for law enforcement regarding some of their most difficult cases—those involving victimized children.

It works! **NCMEC (ORI VA007019W)** accesses the **Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Crime Information Center (NCIC)** databases and **National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (Nlets)** and communicates with law-enforcement agencies nationwide about cases of missing, sexually exploited, and unidentified-deceased juveniles. One of the goals of **NCMEC** is to network more closely with the thousands of law-enforcement agencies located throughout the country to assist in coordinating a national search for a missing child.

Since its creation in 1984 **NCMEC** has had an impressive impact on the fight to end child victimization. Through December 2005 **NCMEC** has

- Handled more than 2 million calls through its national toll-free Hotline **1-800-THE-LOST** (1-800-843-5678)
- Furnished more than 237,000 sightings of missing children exclusively to the lead investigative agency
- Trained more than 214,000 law-enforcement, criminal/juvenile justice, and healthcare professionals—nationwide and in Canada—regarding case detection, identification, investigation, and prevention
- Provided security audits of more than 925 healthcare facilities regarding infant abductions
- Printed more than 39 million copies of publications that are disseminated free-of-charge in single copies



- Handled reports of more than 117,000 missing-children cases
- Handled more than 365,000 reports on the CyberTipline, its online resource for the public to report cases of sexually exploited children
- Played a role in the recovery of more than 99,000 missing children

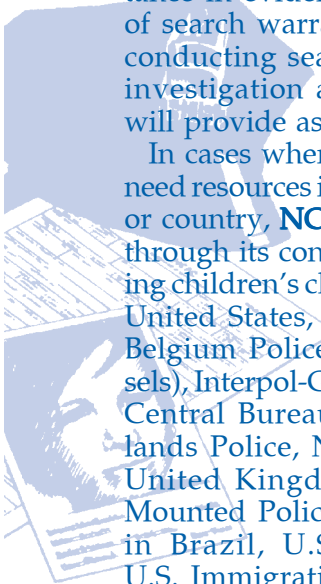
### **Technical Case Assistance**

**NCMEC** staff members work directly with law enforcement offering technical assistance, resources, information dissemination, and advice. When there is a need for assistance in evidence collection, preparation of search warrants, interviewing victims, conducting searches, or other aspects of investigation and prosecution, **NCMEC** will provide assistance.

In cases where law-enforcement officers need resources in another city, county, state, or country, **NCMEC** may be able to assist through its contacts within the state missing children's clearinghouse network in the United States, Australia National Police, Belgium Police, European Centre (Brussels), Interpol-General Secretariat, National Central Bureau of Interpol, the Netherlands Police, New Scotland Yard in the United Kingdom, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Canada, SOS Criança in Brazil, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and U.S. Secret Service's Forensic Services Division.

### **24-Hour, Toll-Free Hotline/ Online CyberTipline**

**NCMEC's** Hotline at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) operates every day of the year and receives calls from numerous countries and online reports worldwide via the CyberTipline at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com). All calls—whether to report the “sighting” of a missing child, report a child as missing or the victim of sexual exploitation, or request general information and assistance—are recorded and supported by automatic number identification (ANI).



### **Leads/Sightings and Information Dissemination**

Through its national toll-free Hotline/CyberTipline, **NCMEC** receives leads about missing- and exploited-child cases that are then provided **exclusively** to the investigating law-enforcement agencies. The Hotline is also the National Child Pornography Tipline, which is operated in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Federal Bureau of Investigation; U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; U.S. Postal Inspection Service; and U.S. Secret Service.

### **Photograph and Poster Preparation and Rapid Distribution**

Through a network of private-sector partners, millions of photographs of missing children have been disseminated. **Approximately 1 in every 6.7 children featured in the photo program has been recovered as a direct result.** **NCMEC** maintains an up-to-date library of missing-child posters on its web site [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com) and national state clearinghouse private bulletin board computer networks.

**NCMEC** is able to broadcast, via fax, posters and other case-related information to more than 14,000 law-enforcement agencies throughout the nation. **NCMEC** also has a partnership with major television networks, leading nationwide publications, and major corporations allowing it to help coordinate national media exposure of missing-children cases.

*Thank you for your assistance and guidance in [our] recent...kidnapping. Your cooperation and help with media coverage was outstanding.*  
**Police Detective, Arizona**

### **LOCATER**

**NCMEC's Lost Child Alert Technology Resource** provides law enforcement the tools and technology needed to rapidly

disseminate missing-child images and information through an advanced, web-based computer program available, free-of-charge, to law enforcement. LOCATER helps law enforcement immediately create professional-looking posters and disseminate them locally, statewide, or across the nation.

### **Age Enhancement, Facial Reconstruction, and Imaging/Identification Services**

**NCMEC** provides

- Computerized age progression of the photographs of long-term missing children
- Reconstruction of facial images from morgue photographs of unidentified-deceased juveniles so posters may be made to assist in the child's identification
- Skull reconstruction of unidentified skeletal remains
- Assistance in creating artist composites via the computer
- Assistance in identifying children whose images are found in confiscated pornography
- Training in computer imaging applications and techniques
- Age regressed photographs of undercover officers working in online chatrooms

### **Case Analysis Services**

**NCMEC** assesses leads and provides law enforcement and state clearinghouses with the most usable, relevant information possible. This unit prioritizes leads and identifies similarities and patterns in cases from across the country, helping to tie cases together and coordinate investigation and response. This unit also collects and analyzes reports of attempted abductions.

### **Queries and Database Searches**

Through its networked database, **NCMEC** is able to search active missing-child cases based on any of a series of identifiers. If a law-enforcement officer is suspicious regarding a particular child, he or she should contact **NCMEC**, provide

descriptive information, and request a database search for possible matches. Numerous children have been identified and recovered through this resource.

**NCMEC** also has access to a number of informational databases such as the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS), nationwide telephone listings, motor-vehicle information, and employment records.

*[A father's] two children...were abducted from Ohio by his estranged wife. After receiving your publication, [Family Abduction], he used its contents to aid him in his search for his children. Then, [he] was faced with another dilemma: He was unable to finance the cost of recovering his children from California. Again, your organization responded admirably by providing him with...airfare for himself and his children.*

*It is the presence of organizations such as yours that makes our jobs in law enforcement easier.*

**District Attorney, Ohio**

### **Educational Materials and Publications**

**NCMEC** has developed specialized training programs, materials, and curricula. Training is provided at little or no cost to local jurisdictions through the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Please call **1-800-THE-LOST** (1-800-843-5678) to find out what programs are currently available.

A major part of **NCMEC's** educational effort is specifically geared to the law-enforcement community. **NCMEC** materials that may be helpful to law enforcement include

- ***Missing and Abducted Children: A Law-Enforcement Guide to Case Investigation and Program Management***, a guidebook for officers to assist them in the search for missing children. The ***Investigative Checklist for First Responders*** is a companion for this guidebook.
- ***Child Molesters: A Behavioral Analysis***, a book for law-enforcement

officers investigating cases of child sexual exploitation.

- ***Child Molesters Who Abduct***, a book with training points about serial child molesters and abductors.
- ***For Healthcare Professionals: Guidelines on Prevention of and Response to Infant Abductions***, a book with an offender profile of infant abductors for law enforcement use.

Informational brochures regarding programs and services available to law enforcement include ***Exploited Child Unit, Lost Child Alert Technology, NCMEC Resources, and Specialized Case and Forensic Imaging Services.***

### **Expert Investigative On-Site Assistance**

This assistance is provided **at no cost to law-enforcement agencies** through two NCMEC programs, **America's Law Enforcement Retiree Team (Project ALERT)** and **Team Adam**.

**Project ALERT** was launched by **NCMEC** in 1992 and has the endorsement of 18 leading, national, law-enforcement associations. The Project ALERT roll-call training video has received the endorsement of the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards & Training (P.O.S.T.). The team is comprised of more than 160 active Representatives who have retired after serving an average of more than 20 years each from a federal, state, or local law-enforcement career. Their experience and skills are made available as on-site Representatives to **requesting agencies** in need of

- Immediate Assistance
- Long-Term Case Review
- Surveillance
- Follow-Up of Leads From State-to-State
- Assistance With Witness Interviews
- A Family Liaison
- A Public Speaker
- A Roll-Call Trainer

Sponsors of **NCMEC's Project ALERT** program include the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Association of Retirees; Association of Former Customs Special Agents; Association of Former Federal Narcotics Agents; Federal Criminal Investigators Association; Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association; Fraternal Order of Police; Internal Revenue Service Inspection Retirees Association; International Association of Chiefs of Police; International Police Association; Major Cities Chiefs; National Association of Police Organizations; National Association of Retired Postal Inspectors; National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; National Sheriffs' Association; National Troopers Coalition; Society of Former Agents of the FBI; U.S. Marshals Service; and U.S. Secret Service.

*[Project ALERT Representatives] worked with our officers in an advisory manner and were able to provide us with valuable knowledge and experience in a case that...we as a small police department do not handle that frequently.... They went out of their way to assist members of the victim's family and to show them that everything possible was being done to solve the case.*  
**Police Chief, Massachusetts**

**Team Adam**, launched in 2003, is patterned after the National Transportation Safety Board's system for sending specialists to the site of serious transportation incidents. Team Adam sends experienced, investigative specialists to the site of serious child abductions and cases of child sexual exploitation.

Cases intaked by **NCMEC** are monitored by the Team Adam Project Manager, and Team Adam Consultants are deployed based on the decision of the Project Manager as case circumstances dictate. The emphasis is on nonfamily abductions and cases involving lost, injured, or otherwise missing children.

Team Adam is staffed by more than 55 talented, retired federal, state, and local

investigators chosen through a formal selection process involving an evaluation by a committee with representatives from the FBI, state law enforcement, and local law-enforcement executives experienced in the investigation of crimes committed against children.

Team Adam assistance to law enforcement includes

- Search
- Analysis
- Technical Support
- Investigation
- Equipment/Resources/Mapping

Team Adam assistance offered to family members includes

- Family Advocacy Services
- Personal Assistance
- Child-Safety Education
- Stress Management
- Media Relations

*[Team Adam's] assistance was very helpful in that they were able to see some areas that needed to be looked at and cleared. Their experience in these cases was obvious and beneficial to our investigation.... Having a small department with limited resources, we appreciate all the help we can get. Thankfully, we have had the best of the best assisting in this case and it was obvious that Team Adam is just that.*

**Chief of Police, Minnesota**

### **Cold Case Unit**

The Cold Case Unit (CCU) assists law enforcement, medical examiners, and coroners with cases involving long-term missing and unidentified deceased children. Through a partnership with the University of North Texas and FBI, the CCU is working to collect deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) samples from relatives of all long-term and endangered missing children and have those profiles uploaded into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) Missing Person DNA Database to be compared with profiles of unidentified remains. Through a partnership with the Bode Technology Group, the

CCU also offers Short Tandem Repeat (STR) and mitochondrial DNA testing for purposes of child identification at no cost to the requesting agency. Other resources offered by CCU include

- Investigative reviews of long-term, missing-child cases
- Development of investigative strategies
- Case-management strategies for handling cases of unidentified remains
- Coordination of the facial-reconstruction and age-enhancement service of the Forensic Imaging Unit
- Media distribution in cases of long-term missing and unidentified-deceased cases
- Missing/unidentified child comparisons
- NCIC offline search requests and reviews
- Cold-case-review sessions
- Forensic scientist referrals for information pertaining to such topics as forensic odontology, pathology, and DNA
- Serial/child homicide database for residential histories of convicted offenders

### **Forensic Services**

Forensic services are available to law-enforcement agencies investigating cases of missing, abducted, and sexually exploited children through **NCMEC's** collaboration with the U.S. Secret Service's Forensic Services Division. Some of the available services include

- Handwriting comparison and analysis
- Polygraph services
- Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) database searches
- Photographic enhancement

### **AMBER Alert**

**NCMEC** assists cities, towns, states, and regions across the United States in the implementation of **America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response**, a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin "over the airwaves" in the most serious child-abduction cases, and promotes use of these alerts in conjunction with entry of information about those missing children in the FBI's NCIC databases.

### **The Partnership**

The partnership between **NCMEC** and law-enforcement agencies has produced a proud record of success. **NCMEC's** staff members are committed to working closely with you to quickly respond to and resolve difficult missing-child cases.

To request any of these services or place an order for educational materials, please use **NCMEC's**

toll-free Hotline at  
**1-800-THE-LOST®**  
(1-800-843-5678)

**NCIC/Nlets at ORI VA007019W**

Business Number at 703-274-3900

Facsimile Number at 703-274-2112

Web Site at [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)

or write to

**NCMEC**

Charles B. Wang International

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3175

U.S.A.



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# NCMEC



**Hotline  
Case Management  
Lead/Information Analysis**

[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)

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