



“Identify Hamilton County is a proactive initiative to provide support to families and the forensic community in the event of a tragedy resulting in a missing or unidentified person.”

“On average, nearly 600,000 people go missing each year in the United States. Of those, tens of thousands of individuals remain missing for more than 1 year.”

“If a tragedy strikes, having readily available information can be critical to identifying a missing person.”

Hamilton County Coroner Jeff Jellison

IDENTIFY HAMILTON COUNTY KITS

If a child is missing, abducted or runs away, these kits (which are held by the parents and are not entered into any type of database) provide families with readily available information to give to law enforcement.

The kit itself is a three-panel paper pamphlet which includes a form for parents or legal guardians to fill out with information about their child. This includes their name, height and weight, race and the color of their hair and eyes. Another panel is for noting any distinguishing marks on their child such as scars or birthmarks and a space for the child’s photograph. Deputy Coroners will fingerprint and perform a cheek swab for DNA to be kept with your paper pamphlet. All of these items are kept by the parents and no information is retained by the Coroner’s Office or law enforcement.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS MISSING

Having a child go missing is a scary experience. In the US alone, over a thousand children go missing every single day.

Typically, this is due to children running away from home, parental abduction, or abduction from a stranger. Luckily, most of these children are found within the first 72 hours of disappearance.

There are several processes and protocols you can follow to help increase the chances of locating and getting your child back safely.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD GOES MISSING: THE FIRST 24 HOURS

The first 24 hours are incredibly important. If you believe your child is missing, you need to act fast. ***You don't have to wait 24 hours to report a missing child.***

Report your child as missing to local law enforcement right away and ask them to enter your child's information into a National Crime Information Center (NCIC) missing person file. ***If your child is under 18, there's no wait time for your child to be added to this list.*** You can also request that a Be On the Lookout (BOLO) bulletin be put out and an Amber Alert issued.

If the child has disappeared from your home, make sure you don't touch or move anything, as it may be evidence that can help find your child. However, do see if they've taken any notable items, which might suggest they've run away, rather than been abducted.

For more help, you can call the **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at 1-800-THE-LOST.**

Give the following information to law enforcement:

- A description of your child including the clothing they were wearing at the time of the disappearance
- Any recent photographs you have of your child
- The circumstances surrounding the disappearance
- Any people who've moved in or out of the neighborhood recently
- People who have shown an increased interest in your family recently
- Any additional information about your child that you think may be helpful in the search

It can also be helpful to conduct a thorough search of your home and property, including areas like attics, basements, sheds, and heating and cooling ducts. If your house is large, there's a chance they could be hidden on your property somewhere.

REACH OUT TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY

You should notify your friends and family as soon as possible that your child is missing. In some cases, your child might have run away to a close relative's house.

You can expand your list of friends and acquaintances to anyone who might have seen your child before they went missing. This can include delivery drivers, mailmen, neighbors, teachers, and more.

Check local events calendars in your area to see if there are any events your child may have attended. Your goal is to expand your search as wide as possible and communicate to as many people as possible about the disappearance.

In cooperation with the police, you can also create a ground search team comprised of friends and family to search areas such as:

Places where they would play outdoors, such as playgrounds and parks

Places your child normally spends time, such as the community center, local stores, or the route they walk to school

Outdoor places such as rivers, lakes, or streams

Places throughout your town that are abandoned such as buildings and cars

USE SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media can give you clues to where your child was last seen. You probably won't have access to your child's passwords, but looking at their friends list or recent activity may give you some clues.

If your child is old enough to have a cell phone, you may be able to track their location with an app. Most iPhones and Android phones have a built-in find my phone feature that will pinpoint their location. They might not have their phone with them, but at the very least it can help you find their last known location.

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO FIND A MISSING CHILD

Here are some additional ways you can expand your search for your missing child:

GET THE PUBLIC INVOLVED!

Spread the information regarding your missing child as far and wide as possible. One way to do that is to get the public involved to help spread the word.

For example, you can create posters and distribute them around your town or city and create a page on social media to spread the word.

You want the disappearance of your child to be as highly publicized as possible and include a phone number to the local police department to report tips or possible leads.