

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2025 MISSING  
CHILDREN  
CLEARINGHOUSE**



**DAVE YOST**

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

## Jasmine Collins

**Lost, injured or missing | AKRON**  
**Missing since Aug. 8, 1991**



Went missing at age: 8 months  
Current age: 35  
Gender: Female  
Race/Ethnicity: Black  
Then height: 1'6"  
Then weight: 25  
Hair color: Black  
Eye color: Brown



Age progression

Jasmine's photo is shown age-progressed to 19 years. She was last seen leaving with her mom, Melissa Collins, to go to the grocery store. Melissa did not take any extra clothing for herself or Jasmine or any of Jasmine's baby items with her when they left. Jasmine requires medication for asthma and Melissa has a scar on her upper left arm.

*Anyone with additional information or questions regarding this case should contact Akron Police Department at (330) 375-2530.*

## Gary Beauchamp

**Lost, injured or missing | CANTON**  
**Missing since Oct. 9, 1976**



Went missing at age: 16  
Current age: 66  
Gender: Male  
Race/Ethnicity: White  
Then height: 5'7"  
Then weight: unknown  
Hair color: Blonde  
Eye color: Unknown

Gary was last seen on Oct. 9, 1976 wearing blue jeans and a brown t-shirt.

*Anyone with additional information or questions regarding this case should contact Stark County Sheriff's Office at (330) 430-3800.*

## Sharon Pretorius

**Lost, injured or missing | DAYTON**  
**Missing since Sept. 28, 1973**



Went missing at age: 13  
Current age: 65  
Gender: Female  
Race/Ethnicity: White  
Then height: 5'7"  
Then weight: 135 lbs  
Hair color: Brown  
Eye color: Blue



Age progression

Sharon was last seen wearing a yellow long sleeve flowered shirt, jeans and white sneakers. The photo is shown age progressed to 50 years old.

*Anyone with additional information or questions regarding this case should contact Dayton Police Department at (937) 333-1070.*

## Donnell White

**Lost, injured or missing | ASHTABULA**  
**Missing since Aug. 10, 1991**



Went missing at age: 14  
Current age: 49  
Gender: Male  
Race/Ethnicity: Black  
Then height: 5'10"  
Then weight: 160 lbs  
Hair color: Black  
Eye color: Brown



Age progression

Donnell's photo is shown age-progressed to 44 years. He may go by the nickname Woodrow or Junior. Donnell may use the date of birth 12/28/76.

*Anyone with additional information or questions regarding this case should contact Ashtabula Police Department at (440) 992-7172.*



# DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 15, 2026

Mike DeWine  
Governor, State of Ohio  
77 S. High St.  
Riffe Center, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Bruce Pijanowski  
Superintendent  
Bureau of Criminal  
Investigation  
P.O. Box 365  
London, Ohio 43140

Rob McColley  
President, Ohio Senate 1  
Capitol Square  
Statehouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Matthew Huffman  
Speaker, Ohio House of  
Representatives  
77 S. High St.  
Riffe Center, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Kara B. Wentz  
Director, Department of  
Children and Youth  
P.O. Box 183204  
Columbus, OH 43218

Dear Colleagues,

This report reinforces the great lengths to which Ohio goes to bring home every missing child.

One number tells the story: 97.8. That's the percentage of children returned home safely out of the 15,367 reported missing in 2025. That is good news.

Still, my heart weighs heavy over those still unaccounted for. Rest assured that they remain a priority for Ohio law enforcement.

As of this report, more than 800 children are listed as actively missing on BCI's Missing Person Unit database. More than 700 of those were reported missing within the past five years.

Nearly 40 children in the database have been missing at least 10 years, including six who have been gone more than 50 years. Our oldest case involves Melvin Horst, who went missing when he was 4 years old, two days after Christmas in 1928. He would be 102 this year.

His case still matters. They all do.

These children, even though some may be well into adulthood now, are not forgotten.

As this report makes clear, Ohio law enforcement works diligently to protect the state's children. This office will always support that mission.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost  
Ohio Attorney General



To view the 2025 OPOTA Training on Missing Children,  
scan this QR code or visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXIHxKjAtSA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXIHxKjAtSA).

## Introduction and overview

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse was established by the Ohio General Assembly in 1993 as a central repository for statistics and information about missing children throughout the state. It serves as an investigative resource to help law enforcement and families locate missing children. It also makes educational information available and coordinates training, collaboration and information sharing throughout Ohio.

The Ohio Missing Persons Unit, housed in the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) within the Attorney General's Office, operates the Missing Children Clearinghouse. Because it is part of BCI's Criminal Intelligence Unit, the Missing Persons Unit can better coordinate BCI resources, facilitate the quickest possible response to missing person cases and provide immediate access to important investigative tools. In addition to focusing on missing children, the Missing Persons Unit plays an integral role in cases and issues involving missing adults, human trafficking and unidentified human remains.

The Missing Persons Unit has a 24-hour toll-free hotline (800-325-5604) through which the unit fields questions from law enforcement officers, parents, community members and the news media.

The unit's website ([OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons](https://OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons)) is available to provide visibility for missing person cases and serve as a central location for families and others seeking resources and guidance. The site, which features details and photos of missing children and adults, allows visitors to submit tips and print posters for specific cases. It also includes links to information about Ohio's unsolved homicides and unidentified remains. To raise awareness about missing person cases, BCI utilizes social-networking websites, including Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).

To further increase public awareness, the Attorney General's Office prints pictures and information about missing person cases on its business envelopes. Two missing persons are featured on each envelope, along with contact information for the Missing Persons Unit. New individuals are featured each time a fresh order of envelopes is printed, with missing children and adults alternated on envelope orders.

Staff members of the Missing Persons Unit assist law enforcement and parents by:

- Issuing Endangered Missing Child and Endangered Missing Adult Alerts.
- Collaborating with others on the issuance of AMBER Alerts.
- Analyzing public websites and law enforcement databases to help locate children.
- Providing a free program to collect DNA from a missing person's family so the missing person can be identified.
- Providing training to law enforcement, other professionals, students and the public.
- Providing investigative guidance, resource recommendations and assistance.

When a child goes missing, parents should contact local law enforcement immediately. The clearinghouse will take a supplemental report and ensure that the child's name is entered into the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database. Parents should also file a report with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).

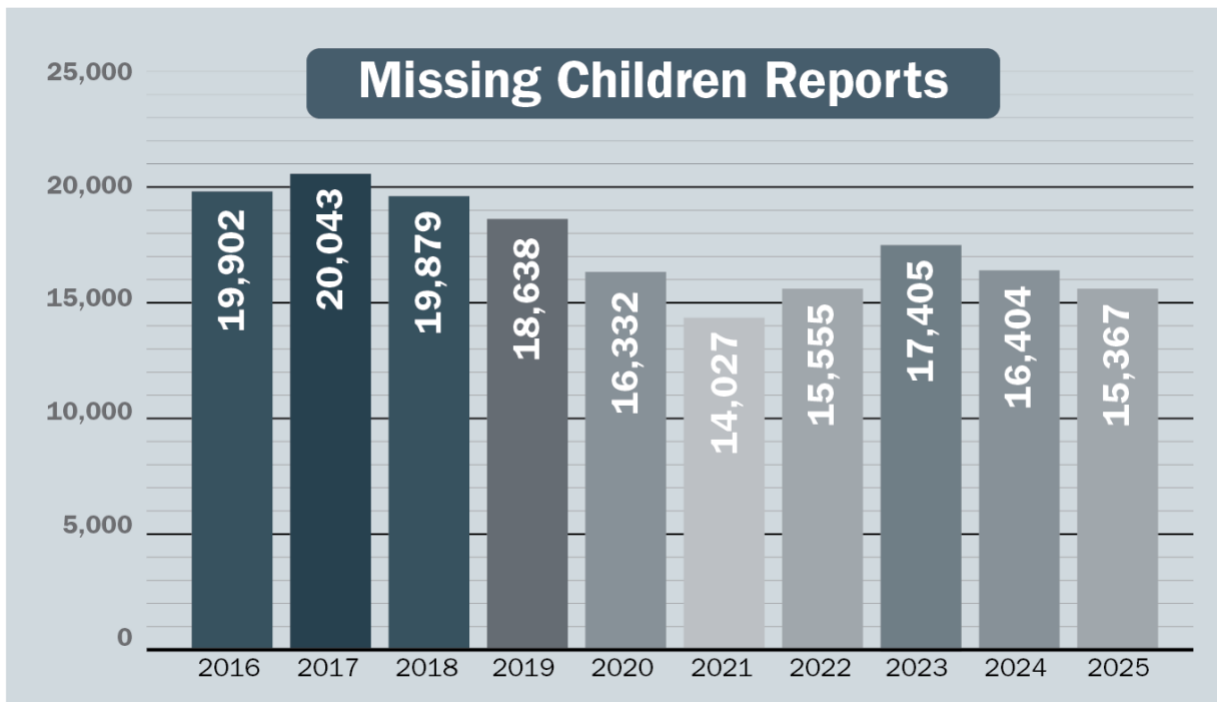


## 2025 Statistics

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse receives statistics on missing persons in Ohio whose cases have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database by law enforcement agencies.

Based on the 2025 entries, the clearinghouse documented reports of 19,930 missing people – 1,412 fewer than the previous year. Of the 2025 total, 15,367 involved missing children under 18 – 1,037 fewer than the previous year.

The trend line for the past 10 years:



The gender of children reported missing was 8,061 female and 7,306 male. Authorities reported that 97.8% of the missing children – 15,024 – were recovered safely by year’s end. **Open-source data revealed that six of the children reported missing were found deceased in 2025.**

The NCIC implemented a Missing Person File in 1975 to track missing person reports across the United States. Records in the Missing Person Files are retained until an individual is located or a record is canceled by the entering agency.

Below are NCIC categories of missing persons and Ohio’s 2025 case numbers. These categories serve as additional descriptors to the missing person entries.

- Individual under the age of 21 who is missing and does not meet any of the entry criteria set forth in other categories: **14,324 Ohio cases**
- Person of any age who is missing under circumstances indicating that his/her physical safety may be in danger: **2,067 Ohio cases**
- Person of any age who is missing under circumstances indicating that the disappearance may not have been voluntary (such as an abduction or a kidnapping): **84 Ohio cases**

- Individual of any age who is missing and under proven physical/mental disability or is senile, thereby subjecting him/her or others to personal and immediate danger: **798 Ohio cases**
- Person of any age who is missing after a catastrophe: **2 Ohio cases**
- Missing individual of any age who does not meet the criteria for any other category and for whom there is a reasonable concern for his/her safety: **2,655 Ohio cases**

When entering a missing person into NCIC, law enforcement agencies have the option of noting the circumstances of the disappearance, if known. About half of all missing person reports filed with NCIC contain this information.

## Missing person circumstances

In cases for which circumstances were specified, these are the NCIC descriptions and Ohio's 2025 numbers:

**Runaway:** A child leaves home without permission and stays away overnight. **7,656 Ohio cases**

**Abducted by noncustodial parent:** A parent, another family member or a person acting on behalf of the parent or other family member takes, keeps or conceals a child (or children), depriving another individual of his/her custody or visitation rights. Family abductions can happen before or after a court issues a custody determination. Ohio Revised Code Section 2919.23 details what constitutes family abduction, also known as "interference with custody," and the accompanying penalties. Criminal statutes nationwide vary regarding the name of the offense and the conduct considered unlawful. Other terms for "family abduction" include "parental kidnapping," "child abduction," "child snatching" and "custodial interference." **22 Ohio cases**

**Abducted by stranger:** Two scenarios qualify as nonfamily abductions. In the first, a nonfamily perpetrator takes a child using physical force or threat of bodily harm and/or detains a child in an isolated place using physical force or threat of bodily harm without lawful authority or the permission of a parent/guardian. Under this scenario, the child is taken for at least one hour. In the second scenario, the child is taken and detained or voluntarily accompanies a nonfamily perpetrator who conceals the child's whereabouts, demands ransom or expresses the intention to keep the child permanently. Within this category, a "stereotypical kidnapping" is defined as involving someone the child does not know, or someone of slight acquaintance, who holds the child overnight, kills the child, demands ransom or intends to keep the child permanently. **2 Ohio cases**

**Adult (federally required entry):** Missing person cases involving individuals older than 18 and younger than 21 must be reported to NCIC under 34 USC 41307 (a). **4 Ohio cases**

## Attempted child abductions

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse works with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) to identify attempted abductions and other suspicious incidents involving child victims, to provide technical assistance and resources for law enforcement, and to raise awareness among parents and children.

In Ohio, the clearinghouse documented seven investigations of attempted child abduction involving a total of eight children, four girls and four boys. These statistics include incidents reported to NCMEC and to the media. The suspects were driving vehicles in 29% of the situations.

Among the incidents for which the outcome is known, 57% involved children being able to walk or run away. Among the incidents for which the suspect's method of attempted abduction is known, 57% used physical force or a weapon, and 43% engaged the children in conversation by asking for directions or help. Reports indicate that three suspects were arrested.

Local law enforcement agencies are encouraged to contact NCMEC or the Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse with reports of attempted abduction, sexual assault, indecent exposure, short-term abductions (abduct and release) and any other suspicious incidents involving child victims and adults unknown to them. Please email [OhioMCCH@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:OhioMCCH@OhioAGO.gov) for more information or to report an incident in your jurisdiction.

## Tools for finding missing children

### AMBER Alert

Ohio's statewide AMBER Alert program, launched on Jan. 1, 2003, is a voluntary partnership among law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies and the wireless communications industry to activate an urgent bulletin in child-abduction cases. The goal is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for and safe recovery of the child.

The AMBER Alert is rooted in the national effort to publicize child abductions following the 1996 kidnapping and murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman of Dallas, Texas. Though named for Amber, the program's title also stands for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response.

In 2025, Ohio law enforcement issued four AMBER Alerts through the Ohio AMBER Alert Plan involving four children – all of whom were recovered safely. Thankfully, most AMBER Alerts lead to the child's safe recovery. For example:

On Sunday Sept. 14, 2025, the Brunswick Police Department in Medina County advised the Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System of its intent to issue an AMBER alert for 7-year-old Ty'Juan Baymon, who had been abducted from his home by his biological mother. Law enforcement believed the boy to be in immediate danger due to social media posts showing him bound and being tortured. The vehicle was traveling east into Pennsylvania, where the boy and suspect were located. The suspect was arrested; the child was medically evaluated, then returned to Medina County officials.

Here are the steps taken during an Ohio AMBER Alert:

- Law enforcement receives the initial call of a missing child and responds to the scene.
- Law enforcement confirms that the missing child's case meets the AMBER Alert criteria, namely:
  - The abducted child is younger than 18.
  - The abduction poses a credible, immediate threat of serious bodily harm or death to the child.
  - The child is not a runaway and has not been abducted due to a child custody dispute (unless such a dispute poses a credible, immediate threat of serious bodily harm or death to the child).
  - There is sufficient descriptive information about the child, the abductor and the circumstances to indicate that the alert will help locate the child.
- Law enforcement issues a radio broadcast to all neighboring law enforcement agencies and enters pertinent information into the NCIC database. The FBI, Ohio State Highway Patrol, NCMEC and Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse are notified of the alert.
- The Highway Patrol and the investigating agency discuss case circumstances to verify that the case meets AMBER Alert criteria. The clearinghouse also may be consulted.
- The Highway Patrol sends a statewide teletype to all Ohio law enforcement agencies alerting them to a child abduction.
- Law enforcement and broadcasters use the Emergency Alert System to air a description of the missing child and suspected abductor, and sends Wireless Emergency Alert messages to cellphones.
- The Highway Patrol uses clearinghouse alert software on the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway, maintained by BCI, to issue emails, faxes and cellphone text messages containing alert information. These go to all partners, including law enforcement agencies, private and public agencies, businesses and citizens who have signed up to receive the alerts.
- The Highway Patrol activates ODOT signboards and posts information on the Ohio AMBER Alert Plan website ([OhioAmberPlan.org](http://OhioAmberPlan.org)).
- The Highway Patrol disseminates the alert via X, the former Twitter. To receive these alerts, visit X and follow @ohioamberalert.
- The AMBER Alert phone number is activated. Members of the public can call **877-AMBER-OH (877-262-3764)** to report a tip or listen to the AMBER Alert description.
- NCMEC sends secondary alert notifications via sites such as AOL, Facebook, X, Google and Yahoo, and notifies truck drivers and Uber drivers.
- The BCI Child Abduction Response Team coordinator contacts the investigating agency to provide BCI resources and assistance.

## **Endangered Missing Child Alert**

This alert is designed to seek assistance for a missing child when law enforcement cannot determine whether the child was abducted but the disappearance otherwise meets AMBER Alert criteria. Once local law enforcement makes a request to the clearinghouse, an automated system alerts all Ohio law enforcement agencies about the missing child.

The Endangered Missing Child Alert provides a broadcast to law enforcement agencies in targeted areas; sends faxes and emails to the news media; can activate (by request) the local Child Abduction Response Team; and uses secondary notification systems to inform the public. BCI's CART coordinator also contacts the investigating agency to provide BCI assistance and resources.

The clearinghouse emails or faxes Endangered Missing Child Alerts to participating trucking companies within a local or regional area designated by law enforcement. The companies then post the information in their driver's lounges and dispatch offices and include the alerts in dispatches to their drivers.

In 2025, the clearinghouse issued 18 Endangered Missing Child Alerts for a combined 18 children. Seventeen of the children were recovered safely; sadly, one was recovered deceased. Three alerts involved children with autism.

## **Responsibilities of law enforcement**

According to Ohio Revised Code Section 2901.30, which addresses missing children cases, law enforcement must:

- Take missing children reports and investigate them promptly.
- Make a concerted effort to locate the child.
- Submit information about missing children to NCIC immediately after a report.
- Notify the missing child or children's parents, guardians, custodians or caregivers of updates and of the submission of information to NCIC.
- Notify the missing child's school to have the child's school records flagged, if appropriate.
- Notify other law enforcement agencies of missing children reports.
- Assist other law enforcement agencies in the investigation of their missing child cases.
- Obtain dental records of children missing longer than 30 days.
- Submit information on found children to NCIC.

## National Missing Children's Day

The nation marks National Missing Children's Day each May 25. In a campaign to commemorate the day, the U.S. Department of Justice hosts the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest to foster discussions of missing and exploited children among students and to promote child safety.

BCI's Missing Persons Unit manages the contest in Ohio and invites fifth-graders to send artwork with the theme of "Bringing Our Missing Children Home." The state's first-place poster is entered in the national competition.

The Ohio winners below were selected by a panel of judges assembled by the Missing Persons Unit:

- First place: Lyra Absten, Bataan Intermediate, Port Clinton
- Second place: Julia Molnar, Bataan Intermediate, Port Clinton
- Third place: Ruby Magrum, Bataan Intermediate, Port Clinton

The Ohio winners are honored at the annual Attorney General's Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance.

## Collaborations

The Ohio Missing Persons Unit collaborates with many agencies and organizations to locate missing and abducted children and prevent future incidents. The initiatives include:

- **Ohio human trafficking task forces.** Human trafficking task forces in Ohio are typically regional, made up of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies; victim advocacy agencies; and prosecutor's offices. Staff members from the Missing Persons Unit support task force investigations, share intelligence and provide resources — efforts that help victims and bring offenders to justice.
- **Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition.** The Missing Persons Unit is a member of the coalition, which works to end human trafficking through public awareness, service to trafficked persons, advocacy, and resource and training support for law enforcement.
- **I-SEARCH.** The InterState Enforcement Agencies to Recover Children Advisory Council aids in the identification and recovery of missing children. Midwestern member states are Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.
- **Project LINK.** BCI is the central repository for information regarding Ohio missing persons and unidentified remains. Through BCI's Project LINK (Linking Individuals Not Known), a relative of a person missing for at least 30 days may submit a DNA sample for deposit into a database to compare with unidentified remains found throughout the country. The Project LINK program was created in 1999 under Ohio Revised Code Section 109.573. In 2025, 94 LINK cases were submitted to BCI and 65 were closed.
- **NamUs.** The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System is the online repository for records involving missing people and unidentified human remains. The initiative, launched in 2007 by the U.S. Department of Justice, aims to reduce the number of unidentified bodies held at coroner and medical examiner offices nationwide. Missing person records in the

database are cross-checked with an unidentified remains database in hopes of confirming identification.

- **Ohio Child Abduction Response Team (CART):** A Child Abduction Response Team is designed to respond when a missing child is considered to be in immediate danger. The Ohio Attorney General's Office — along with the Highway Patrol, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association — leads the Child Abduction Response Team model for Ohio. Multiple teams located throughout the state have helped recover missing children statewide.

## Assistance to the public

### Online resources

The Missing Persons Unit website ([www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons)) provides valuable information to the public, including:

- Steps to take when a child is missing.
- Photographs and printable posters to raise awareness of missing children.
- Publications.
- Safety tips.
- Links to Ohio's AMBER Alert program, training information, other state clearinghouses, and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

The public plays a vital role in the recovery of missing children through another web-based resource, the Ohio Citizen Alert Network. The vital software program notifies the public when children are abducted or missing in life-threatening circumstances. By [subscribing to receive alerts](#) on the Ohio Attorney General's website, you can learn about missing children through text messages and emails.

## Assistance to law enforcement and other agencies

### Training

The Missing Persons Unit gives training presentations on AMBER Alerts, other missing person alert programs, the Child Abduction Response Team, first-responder programs, child safety, reunification, human trafficking and resources for law enforcement.

During 2025, the Ohio AMBER Alert Advisory Committee hosted a one-day Alerts Conference at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. More than 150 law enforcement officers and dispatchers from throughout the state attended. Other trainings offered during the year focused on law enforcement assistance and resources, Project LINK and human trafficking.

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse conducted 19 training sessions for law enforcement statewide in 2025. Law enforcement officers, dispatchers and analysts received instruction on missing children investigations, safety tips for children, AMBER Alert protocol, and protocols for initiating other missing person alerts.

Upon request, the clearinghouse provides three investigative manuals to law enforcement:

- “Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigations and Program Management,” which provides step-by-step investigation checklists for family and nonfamily abductions, lost children and runaways
- “The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Child Abduction Response Plan,” which details techniques essential to conducting abduction investigations
- “Long-term Missing Children Guide for Law Enforcement,” which provides strategies for finding long-term missing children

The clearinghouse also offers a best-practices guide for law enforcement for missing person cases. The guide, titled “Legal Mandates and Best Practices Protocol for Law Enforcement in Missing Persons Cases,” can be obtained through the clearinghouse or the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Copies of other materials, brochures and applicable Ohio Revised Code citations are distributed at training sessions and, upon request, by mail. A list of all available publications can be found at the end of this report.

### **Investigative assistance**

The clearinghouse also offers law enforcement agencies assistance with missing child investigations. This help includes:

- Using internet research tools, posting the child’s photo on the clearinghouse website, and advising peace officers of available resources, including other local agencies with expertise.
- Conducting online searches to locate the addresses, telephone numbers, professional licenses, neighbors and family members of people who may have taken or may be associated with a missing child.
- Analyzing law enforcement records to see whether the child has been incarcerated, taken into the custody of child protective services, obtained a new driver’s license or state ID card, or had other contact with law enforcement agencies.
- Accessing various social-networking websites to determine whether a child posted profiles, which sometimes reveal details about whereabouts, the reasons for the disappearance, and information about their friends and contacts.
- Providing suspect and associate research to determine possible places the child might go and the risk of danger to the child.
- Working with staff from these BCI units:
  - Special Victims Unit, which aids local law enforcement with abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, and internet crimes against children.
  - The Criminal Intelligence Unit, which can provide background information on missing individuals and suspects.
  - The Special Investigations Unit, which can provide an agent to directly assist with a local investigation.
  - The Cyber Crimes Unit, which provides forensic analysis of many types of technology.
  - The Laboratory Division, which identifies best family candidates for submission of DNA and processes DNA samples.

In addition, the Attorney General's Office has featured hundreds of missing children's photos on posters in conjunction with AMBER Alerts and Endangered Missing Child Alerts.

BCI employs a trained forensic artist who specializes in combining art and science to help identify suspects and missing persons. The artist offers three main services:

- Composite imagery, the process of creating an image through cognitive interviews of witnesses, which is used to generate leads in locating a person of interest in a missing person investigation.
- Image modification, which can be used to create postmortem or age-progression images. Postmortem imaging converts an autopsy photo into an image of what the person may have looked like when alive and serves as a tool to generate tips that assist in identification. An age-progression image is used years after a person has gone missing. The forensic artist modifies the image of the person to resemble what he or she might look like currently.
- Facial reconstruction, which can be used for cases in which an unknown person's skull has been found. In one process, the artist starts with a CT scan made of the skull at a local hospital. The scan is converted to a 3-D image and is then 3-D printed, producing an exact replica of the skull. The replica is used to create an image or a clay model of what the person looked like, which can be forwarded to law enforcement and the news media to generate tips. The process also preserves the remains and any evidence that might be left behind.

BCI employees work diligently to help give faces – and, ideally, names – back to unidentified persons.

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse works closely with human trafficking investigators and social-service agencies and can help determine whether a child is a victim of (or at risk for) human trafficking. When children are identified as victims or at high risk, the clearinghouse shares the information with human trafficking task forces, investigators and social-service agencies. Any resulting tips are shared with the investigating law enforcement agency.

In addition, the clearinghouse provides law enforcement with cellphone-tracking information, details on obtaining warrants for social-networking sites, satellite photos of areas pertinent to searches for missing children, direction on legal issues, Child Abduction Response Team assistance, and details on alert procedures.

A BCI special agent serves as Ohio's Child Abduction Response Team coordinator. The coordinator contacts agencies during any endangered missing person case and offers additional assistance and resources, participates in Ohio CART Steering Committee meetings, updates the AMBER Alert Advisory Committee, helps create policy and procedures, and coordinates the CART response to investigations.

## **Ohio Department of Health**

Under a policy the clearinghouse developed with the Ohio Department of Health, the department flags and holds the birth certificates of missing children involved in an AMBER Alert or Endangered Missing Child Alert and notifies law enforcement of requests for missing children's birth certificates.

## Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Case managers from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) provide the clearinghouse with information that can help locate a missing child and prevent future disappearances. The clearinghouse provides training to ODJFS employees about procedural issues involving the agencies and other information about missing children.

## Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Ohio photo ID cards for children might assist police when a child is reported missing. Parents or guardians can apply for an ID card at any deputy registrar location. There is no minimum age, and the child's next of kin can be included to make it easier for police to get in touch with parents or guardians.

## Other assistance

### Human trafficking

Human trafficking forces the most vulnerable members of society, including children, into modern-day slavery. The Ohio Attorney General's Office statewide human trafficking tipline is accessible by phone at (844) END-OHHT, text at 847411 with "ENDOHHT", or online at [OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ENDOHHT](https://OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/ENDOHHT). This hotline allows Ohio residents to report tips about human trafficking to trained professionals, streamlining the process for law enforcement agencies to investigate and potentially rescue victims.

The Missing Persons Unit assists local law enforcement agencies with identifying missing children who are at high risk of being trafficked for sex. The unit then refers the missing child case to BCI's Special Victims Unit, which assists in efforts to locate these children, including those confirmed as sex trafficking victims. The Missing Persons Unit also shares information about missing children with local law enforcement, federal partners, and social-service agencies that work with human trafficking victims.

## National resources and partners

The **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children** works to prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation; to find missing children; and to assist the victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families and the professionals who serve them. For details, visit [missingkids.org](https://missingkids.org) or call 800-THE-LOST (800-843-5678).

The Missing Persons Unit collaborates with the **U.S. State Department** regarding outgoing and incoming child abduction cases with an international connection. Within the State Department, the Office of Children's Issues assists parents whose children have been abducted to and from foreign countries. Officers in those countries provide information for parents and/or legal guardians that they can use to identify options – both criminal and civil – to pursue the return of an abducted child. The Office of Children's Issues works closely and cooperatively with a wide range of U.S. and foreign entities, including law enforcement, non-governmental organizations and foreign governments. Call 888-407-4747 for more information.

The **National Runaway Safeline** is the federally designated national communication system for homeless and runaway youths. The organization provides round-the-clock crisis intervention, referrals to local resources, and educational and prevention services to youth, families and community members. The group is known for its Home Free Program – which, in conjunction with Greyhound Lines and United Airlines – provides runaways with free transportation home. For more information, visit [1800runaway.org](http://1800runaway.org).

**A Child Is Missing Inc.** provides a first-responder program to law enforcement. The program's rapid response telephone system alerts residents in a targeted area about a missing child, elderly person or individual with mental impairments or disabilities. The program serves several states, including Ohio. A Child Is Missing works in concert with AMBER Alert and other child-safety programs and can be activated only by law enforcement. No special equipment or personnel are needed for the program, which is free. For more information, visit [achildismissing.org](http://achildismissing.org).

**Code Adam**, a NCMEC program sponsored by Old Navy, is a powerful search tool for lost and potentially abducted children used in hundreds of thousands of locations nationwide. It is designed to help businesses, parks, government buildings and other entities put safety protocols in place to respond when a child goes missing. The program was created in memory of 6-year-old Adam Walsh, who was abducted from a Florida department store and later found murdered. Adam's parents, John and Revé Walsh, founded NCMEC. Code Adam Kits can be obtained through that nonprofit organization. The kits include a training video, a protocols reference poster, a manager's checklist to ensure full implementation and a quiz for employees. For more details, visit [missingkids.org/education/training/codeadam](http://missingkids.org/education/training/codeadam).

**Team Adam**, another NCMEC program, provides rapid, on-site assistance to law enforcement agencies and families in active missing children cases. Team Adam consultants are retired law enforcement professionals with years of investigative experience at the federal, state and/or local levels. Consultants from Team Adam rapidly deploy to sites where these cases are unfolding. They provide on-the-ground technical assistance and connect local law enforcement to a national network of resources. The program's unique access to the center's resources, coupled with its consultants' years of law enforcement experience, often provides departments with the added tools needed to better address complex, media-intensive cases. For more information, visit : <https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/missingkids/pdfs/publications/nc170.pdf>

**Team HOPE** (Help Offering Parents Empowerment) assists families with missing children by offering counseling, resources, empowerment and support from trained volunteers who have, or have had, missing children. For information, call 866-305-HOPE (866-305-4673) or visit [missingkids.org/gethelpnow/support/teamhope](http://missingkids.org/gethelpnow/support/teamhope).

## Related publications

The Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse can provide the following publications to local agencies. Most of them were produced by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children or the National Runaway Safeline.

- Child Fingerprint ID Cards
- “Keep Your Child Safe” palm card
- Child Safety Game Sheet
- A Child is Missing
- A Family Resource Guide on International Parental Kidnapping
- What About Me? Coping With the Abduction of a Brother or Sister
- When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide
- You're Not Alone
- Children Missing From Care
- For Healthcare Professionals
- Family Abduction: Prevention & Response
- Litigating International Child Abduction Cases
- Missing Children, State Care & Child Sex Trafficking
- Safe to Compete
- Staying Home Alone
- KidSmartz: Preventing Abduction

## Know the Rules for Child Safety

- Know the Rules (After-school Safety for Children Home Alone)
- Know the Rules (For Child Safety in Amusement or Theme Parks)
- Know the Rules (For Child Safety in Youth Sports)
- Know the Rules (General Parental Tips to Help Keep Your Child Safer)
- Know the Rules (Safety Tips for the Holidays)
- Know the Rules (School Safety Tips)
- Know the Rules (For Going to and From School More Safely)

## Law enforcement resources

- AMBER Alert Investigator Checklist
- Investigative Checklist for First Responders
- Checklist for Public-Safety Telecommunicators
- Investigative Checklist for Law Enforcement When Responding to Missing Children with Special Needs
- A Law Enforcement Guide on International Parental Kidnapping
- Missing Child Emergency Response – Quick Reference Guide
- Investigative Checklist for Law Enforcement When Helping Unsupervised and Runaway Children
- Law Enforcement: Resource Information
- Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigation and Program Management
- Long-term Missing Children Guide for Law Enforcement: Law enforcement strategies for finding long-term missing children
- Child Molesters Who Abduct
- Child Molesters (A Behavioral Analysis)
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Publication Order Form
- Child Sex Rings: Behavioral Analysis
- Children Traumatized in Sex Rings
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Interviewing Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation
- Investigator's Guide to Missing Child Cases

# OHIO'S 2025-2026 NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY

# POSTER CONTEST

The U.S. Department of Justice sponsors the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest, which asks fifth-graders to design around the theme of *Bringing Our Missing Children Home*.

The winners from Ohio are presented on this page.

## To participate in this program:

See our contest rules and submission criteria at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/NationalMissingChildrensDayPosterContest](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/NationalMissingChildrensDayPosterContest)



**1st place**

**Lyra Absten**

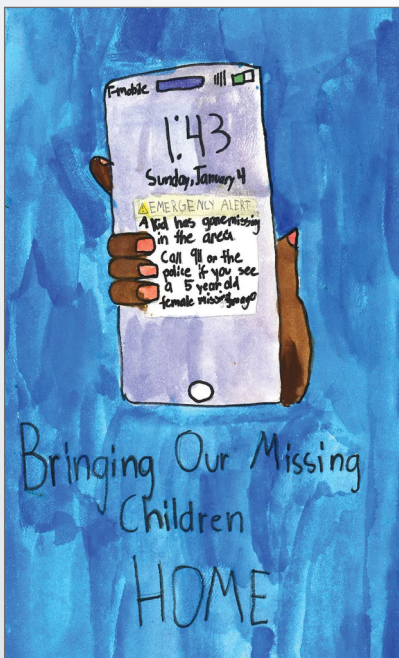
Bataan Intermediate,  
Port Clinton



**2nd place**

**Julia Molnar**

Bataan Intermediate,  
Port Clinton



**3rd place**

**Ruby Magrum**

Bataan Intermediate,  
Port Clinton





**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

---

---

**MISSING CHILDREN  
CLEARINGHOUSE  
2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

---

---

Ohio Attorney General's Office

**OHIO BUREAU OF  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
Missing Persons Unit**

P.O. Box 365  
London, OH 43140  
800-325-5604

[www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov)

