

ADAMS LAW

The National Child Search Assistance Act of 1990 established reporting requirements that address hindrances to the timely entry of missing children into NCIC. Among other things, the act require states to ensure that Law Enforcement **DO NOT** impose waiting periods before accepting and making reports of missing children and that Law Enforcement immediately enter information on the missing child into NCIC. The Adam Walsh Child Protection Act of 2006 establishes the requirements for handling reports of missing children. Among other things, the Adam Walsh Act established measurable and more specific requirements that reports be entered into **NCIC WITHIN 2 HOURS OF NOTIFICATION**. The Adam Walsh Act characterizes this change as improving the chances of recovery of missing children, because of research has showed that children that were abducted and murdered were killed within 3 hours of being kidnapped.

The Lincoln Memorial University Police is dedicated to making every attempt to locate missing children. All cases pertaining to missing children will be immediately assigned to our criminal investigator. The investigator will work closely with local, state, and federal agencies, in an effort to locate and return your child as soon as possible. The investigator also has at his disposal the Missing Person Manual that is to be utilized in an effort to locate your missing child. All information will be entered into NCIC, an Amber Alert will be deployed and the investigator will work closely with the Missing and Exploited Children Network.

What to Do if Your Child is Missing

If you believe your child is missing, it is critical that you act immediately. If the child is missing from your home, search the house. You should check closets, piles of laundry, under the beds, inside old refrigerators—anywhere a child could crawl or hide. Check the immediate area around your house, backyard, and garage. Check with neighbors and friends of the child. If you cannot find your child, immediately call the police at **911** or the LMU Police at (423) 869-6911.

If you are at a shopping mall or department store, immediately notify the store manager or security office and ask for assistance in finding your child. After this, immediately telephone the police at 911.

If it occurs on campus immediately contact the campus police at (423) 869-6911.

What Will Happen

When talking with the police, remain calm, give the police your name and address, and advise them that you want to report your child missing. Give police a full description of your child and the clothing your child was last wearing. The dispatcher broadcasts the description to units in the field. The dispatcher will then dispatch a police car to your location. All juvenile missing persons under 16 years of age on the Lincoln Memorial University campus are considered

critical; all calls will be answered promptly. However, police responses may be expedited if any of these unusual circumstances exist:

- The child is younger than 7 years of age
- Your child is mentally incapacitated or in need of medicine or medical attention
- You find evidence of foul play or the child is with an adult who you think might harm the child

Once a report is initiated, if any of the above circumstances exist, the Watch Commander for the Police Department, will make a determination if a command post—a nearby base of operations—is warranted. The Watch Commander makes careful consideration of all the facts surrounding the disappearance of your child.

An immediate search for your child will commence. A detective will respond to the scene and an immediate investigation begins. If the detective is not, the Watch Commander will assign an officer until the detective becomes available. Once a command post is established it will not be disbanded without the prior approval of the Director of campus Safety Operations, or until the child has been located.

SUZANNE'S LAW

REPORTING YOUR MISSING CHILD

The Lincoln Memorial University is dedicated to providing a safe environment for all of our faculty, staff, students, and visitors. In case of a missing child the LMU Police will work closely with local, state, and federal agencies and making every attempt to return your child safely. In an effort to provide a comprehensive investigation into the possible disappearance of your child we need your full cooperation.

In 2003 former President George W. Bush signed into law "Suzanne's Law," requiring police to notify the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) when someone between 18 and 21 is reported missing, as part of the national "Amber Alert" bill. Previously police were only required to report missing persons under the age of 18. Any person under the age of 21 is considered a missing child.

Also, the police are now able to enter long term missing persons up to the age of 21 who were reported missing before the law went into effect.

In addition to filing the information with NCIC the law enforcement agency is able to file a report with National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and receive services such as poster creation and age enhancement technology.

This federal law is named for Suzanne Lyall, a State University of New York at Albany student who has been missing since 1998.

Do not wait 48 hours to report your child missing. There is no time limit that you must wait to report a person as missing, whether he/she is considered missing or a runaway.

The first 48 hours following a missing or runaway episode are the most important in locating your child. While many children return home or are located during this period, it is critical to take every action available to help locate and safeguard your children. **DO NOT WAIT** to report your child missing. There is no time limit that you must wait to report a person as missing. We know that finding your loved one is your greatest priority. We are here to help.

To aid us in returning your child to you safely, we will need to confirm the child's identity. If your child has dental and medical records, please follow the steps below.

Ask your child's dentist and pediatrician/doctor to complete the appropriate sections in the NCIC Missing Person File Data Collection Entry Guide, a 36-page booklet that can be completed online, or it can be provided to you by our investigator.

Bring the completed form to the Lincoln Memorial University Police Department, Criminal Investigator, located at the Tex Turner Arena (423) 869-6532.

The investigator will provide you with the Missing Person File that is required to assist with locating your missing child.