

# WHEN SOMEONE GOES MISSING

RESOURCES  
FOR FAMILIES  
OF THE MISSING



530-776-7174  
ANDERSON, CALIFORNIA

[NOR-CALALLIANCEFORTHEMISSING.ORG](http://NOR-CALALLIANCEFORTHEMISSING.ORG)

# When Someone Goes Missing: Resources For Families Of Missing Persons

**Published In  
California, U.S.A.**

Copyright © Nor-Cal Alliance For The Missing  
All Rights Reserved



Nor-Cal Alliance for the Missing was established in 2013 and provides a guide for families with a missing loved one. This guide is a collaborative effort led by advocates and people who have undergone the same experience. It offers practical steps, support, and shared wisdom from those who understand the unique challenges. The primary objective of this guide is to create a resilient community that is dedicated to ensuring the safe return of the missing.

**-Nor-Cal Alliance For The Missing Est. 2013**



# NOR-CAL ALLIANCE FOR THE MISSING

MISSING PERSONS NON-PROFIT | 530-776-7174 | ANDERSON, CA | [NOR-CALALLIANCEFORTHEMISSING.ORG](http://NOR-CALALLIANCEFORTHEMISSING.ORG)

Nor-Cal Alliance for the Missing is a non-profit organization that consists of a group of dedicated volunteers committed to locating missing individuals and providing support to their families. The organization is driven by an unwavering passion for the cause and a deep sense of responsibility to the community.

Our organization works closely with the community, authorities, and loved ones to make a positive impact. We provide emotional support, resources, and guidance to families of missing individuals to help them cope with the distressing situation. We aim to provide additional resources to families of missing individuals and raise awareness about the alarming number of missing persons.

We firmly believe that every missing person deserves to be found and reunited with their loved ones. If you or someone you know is dealing with a case of missing persons, Nor-Cal Alliance for the Missing is ready to offer expert assistance and compassionate support.



# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Emergency/Non-Emergency/Tribal Land.....	2
First Call.....	3
Where to Start.....	4
Wellness Check.....	5
Filing a Missing Persons Report.....	7
Your Records.....	9
Gathering Information for Law Enforcement.....	10
Checklist.....	12
Searches.....	13
Flyers.....	14
Effective Use of Social Media.....	15
Media Involvement.....	16
Voluntary Missing and Confidentiality.....	18
Long Term Missing.....	19
Caution and Awareness.....	20
Support and Self Care.....	21
Things You Should Know.....	23
Victim Reporting.....	25
Can I Hire an Investigator.....	26
After Their Return.....	27
Survivors of Human Trafficking.....	28
Important Resources.....	29
Jurisdictions.....	32



## **INTRODUCTION**

Each year, over 600,000 individuals go missing in the United States, including both young children and older adults. There are resources and support available to help you.

This helpful information can assist family and friends in searching for missing loved ones. Experiencing the disappearance of a loved one can be a difficult and emotional time, leaving you feeling confused and uncertain about what to do. This guide provides helpful steps to navigate through the complexities of this experience.

It's important to note that every missing person's case is unique, and not all suggestions will be relevant to every situation. Seeking support is essential during this difficult time, whether it's from loved ones or organizations dedicated to assisting families.

---

***THERE IS NO WAITING PERIOD TO REPORT A MISSING PERSON. THE FIRST 48 HOURS OF INVESTIGATION ARE CRITICAL.***

---

## **EMERGENCY**

In the event of an emergency, it is imperative that you call 911 immediately if you suspect criminal activity or if someone is in danger. The first 48 hours are critical for gathering crucial information and evidence to increase the likelihood of locating the individual. **There is no waiting period to file a missing persons report.** Request that a report be filed immediately and obtain the case number and contact information of the reporting officer. If you suspect criminal activity, danger, injury, or potential loss of life, especially for individuals with cognitive disabilities or in severe weather conditions, call 911 immediately.

## **NON-EMERGENCY**

If someone you know has gone missing and there is no immediate physical danger, or if they have been missing for an extended period of time (such as several weeks, months, or years), it is advisable to contact local law enforcement agency in the area where the individual went missing.

## **TRIBAL LAND**

In the event that a loved one goes missing on Tribal land, contact the Tribal police department. If the individual lives or went missing outside the limits of Tribal land, contact the police department in that specific area.

## **CALL LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRST**

- For children, then call the **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children** 800-THE-LOST (800-843-5678)

## **Search for Missing Children**

- Photos and case details posted by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

## **AMBER Alert**

- AMBER Alert is an urgent bulletin system for the most serious child abduction cases.

## **FBI's Kidnapping and Missing Persons Investigations**

- Law enforcement authorities are looking for information that may lead to the location of these individuals.

## **National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)**

- This Internet-based tool allows investigators, forensics professionals, and the public to cross-reference records of missing persons and unidentified remains and helps bring answers to families of the missing.

## **Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons**

- Municipal law enforcement components work with Tribal nations to address the important issues of missing or murdered indigenous persons.



## ***WHERE TO START***

When someone goes missing, it can be a complicated matter with many reasons. Some factors that may contribute to a person's disappearance include mental health challenges, difficulty talking to loved ones, domestic violence, and becoming a victim of crime. If you suspect someone is missing against their will, contact 911 or local law enforcement immediately.

### **Here are some important factors to be considered**

- Missed important tasks?
- Mental/cognitive impairment?
- History of going missing?
- Relationship problems?
- Financial problems?
- Feeling discouraged/depressed?
- Missing personal belongings?
- Recent loss or anniversary?
- Missing car?
- Missing wallet?
- Work/school difficulties?
- Necessary prescriptions taken?
- Emptied bank account?
- Failed to return from wilderness outing?



## **WELLNESS CHECK**


If you have a feeling that someone you know is missing, it's imperative to conduct a wellness check at frequented places such as

- Their home
- Their job
- Hospitals
- Shelters
- Jails

Even if you're not located nearby, you can still ask a friend or neighbor in the area to check on the person's home for you. Additionally, it's important to contact the police department and request that they perform a "well-check".

**If you notice signs of forced entry or violence in a home, do not enter and contact the police immediately. It's essential to minimize contact with any potential evidence to yield better results. If you suspect any foul play or abduction, make sure to insist on taking fingerprints.**

- Check with their employer and inquire if the missing person has picked up their paycheck.
- Contact the missing person's landlord to check for any issues at their residence and confirm if rent has been paid.

- 
- If the missing individual was driving, it's a good idea to identify their possible route and carry out a comprehensive search in both directions during daylight hours. Keep an eye out for any signs of an accident, such as damaged guardrails or signs of disturbance in vegetation, as these could serve as significant leads in locating the missing person.
  - If possible, request information related to recent activity in the bank account of the missing person. It is important to note that the account balance is not the primary concern but rather the most recent transactions. This will help in gaining a better understanding of any events that might have taken place before or after their disappearance.
  - It is highly advisable to conduct periodic reviews of phone records and shared cell phone plans for any suspicious activities such as frequent or unknown calls or texts, unusual data usage, and unfamiliar contacts and numbers. This proactive measure can help identify any abnormal behavior or unauthorized access.

## **FILING A MISSING PERSON REPORT**

***The myth of waiting 24 or 48 hours to report someone missing is false. In fact, the sooner law enforcement has a case, the sooner they can get to work in helping you find the missing person***

In situations where an individual cannot be located and there is a potential risk, it is of utmost importance to take immediate action by contacting local law enforcement. Such instances may include suspected criminal activity or welfare concerns. Timely communication with the authorities can help ensure the safety of all parties involved and prevent any potential harm or danger.

Ensuring that a report is being filed when a loved one goes missing is essential. Additionally, you can inquire if your loved one will be entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), a nationwide database law enforcement agencies use to share information about missing persons. Being entered into the NCIC increases the chances of locating your loved one, allowing law enforcement agencies across the country to access and share information about the missing person. Therefore, confirming that your loved one is being entered into the NCIC is crucial.

Although most state laws require police to file a report for any missing person, regardless of how long they have been missing, it is important to note that each police department may have its own policy for handling missing person cases.

---

***THIS DOES NOT MEAN YOU CAN NOT FILE A REPORT IMMEDIATELY.***

---

The priority of each case is determined by evaluating its circumstances. Police are likely to act immediately in cases involving missing juveniles or older individuals.

It's natural to feel upset when you suspect someone of being responsible for your loved one's disappearance. However, the police cannot conduct a search or make an arrest without a warrant, as mandated by the state and federal constitutions and court decisions. This can often cause anxiety and frustration for family members, who may feel that the investigating agency is not doing enough. In such cases, it's important to show patience and respectfully communicate your concerns to the authorities, explaining why you believe your suspicions are valid.

It is crucial to be completely honest and disclose any past substance abuse issues, mental health issues, or criminal activity when reporting a missing person.

## **WRITE DOWN IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS**

Keep a detailed log of names, phone numbers, and addresses of everyone you talked to before and after reporting your loved one missing.

- *Police department name and phone*
- *Name and badge number of the officer you spoke with*
- *Missing person case number*
- *Date and time of missing person report*

When dealing with law enforcement, it's always helpful to have a trusted individual present, whether it's a family member, friend, or advocate. Investigators may request a private conversation to collect sensitive or confidential information regarding a missing person.

Law enforcement responds differently to missing person cases depending on the situation. They act quickly when the individual is vulnerable or when there is evidence or suspicion of a crime.

**It is recommended to choose one trusted person as the designated point of contact with law enforcement.**

## ***GATHERING AND DISCLOSING INFORMATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT***

Families can assist law enforcement by contacting friends, family, school, neighbors, and anyone else who may know the missing person's whereabouts to request information about them.

- Most recent photographs of the missing person.
- Full name, date of birth and, social security number of the missing person.
- Where and when they were last seen or heard from.
- Description of what the missing person was wearing.
- Any unique physical or speech characteristics.
- Year, make, model, color of any involved vehicle.
- Known travel plans or destinations of the missing person.
- Description of anyone who could be with the missing person.

***It is crucial to inform law enforcement investigators handling the missing person case of any new information.***

- It is recommended to have a cell phone and share its number and your landline number with the Sheriff's Office to be reachable when away from home.
- It is recommended to use caller ID and maintain a record of all incoming calls, including hang-up calls.
- If the missing person uses a computer, provide their Internet Service Provider's name and relevant email accounts to the Sheriff's Office.
- It is recommended to retain the personal belongings of the missing person, such as toothbrushes, razors, eyeglasses, etc., as they may be helpful in the search for them.
- For possible future use, please place items in a paper bag and store them in a secure location. The Sheriff's Office may need them later for DNA collection in connection with the missing person.

**It is recommended to choose one trusted person as the designated point of contact with law enforcement.**

## ***CHECKLIST OF INFORMATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT***

- Recent photos
- Full name, nickname, and aliases
- Home address
- Last known location
- Date of birth
- Date of disappearance
- Time of disappearance
- Height and weight
- Hair and eye color
- Scars, marks, and tattoos
- Description of clothing or accessories at the time of disappearance
- Who they were last seen with
- Any likely destinations
- Medical conditions or behavioral health information
- Are they currently taking medications
- Disability (physical or mental)
- Vehicle registration number, make, model, or other transportation methods
- Personal items left behind such as their purse, wallet, phone, or keys
- Social media account usernames/handles, email addresses, and cellphone numbers



## **SEARCHES**

Law enforcement agencies have standard procedures to determine whether or not a search is required if a loved one goes missing. They will initiate a search if they suspect foul play, if there are suspicious circumstances surrounding the disappearance, or if they believe that the missing person is in danger.

## **ORGANIZING A SEARCH**

If you are searching private property, it is important to first obtain permission from the landowner. Additionally, it is recommended that you confirm with law enforcement if any ongoing searches are being conducted in the area to avoid potential contamination of evidence.

- Obtain the names and contact details of all volunteers.
- Divide your map or area into grids and assign small groups of searchers to those areas.
- Walk slowly, maintain an arm's length distance between each other, and carefully scan your surroundings.
- If you discover anything suspicious, mark it with a brightly-colored flag, stake, or tape. Avoid handling anything that could be evidence.
- Take clear photographs and record your location or coordinates.
- For safety reasons, it is advised that children under 18 not participate in a search for a missing person.

## **MISSING PERSON FLYERS**

Please use the most recent photograph that you have of the missing person. Provide a brief description of the circumstances surrounding their disappearance, including details of what they were wearing at the time and any recognizable body markings, such as tattoos, piercings, or unique hairstyles or colors. To avoid identity theft issues, please list the person's age or birth year instead of their actual date of birth. We advise the public to call 911 or the department where the missing persons report was filed if they have any information that may help with the search.

## **DISTRUBUTING FLYERS**

Start by rounding up volunteers to help hang flyers and posters. When distributing paper flyers, hand them out or post them in locations where the missing person was last seen or is likely to go, such as shopping centers, restaurants, bus stops, convenience and grocery stores, parks and gyms.

## **[CREATE A FREE FLYER](#)**

**(Requires free Canva account)**

Scan the QR code or click your template choice

**Some local businesses may discount the cost or print free flyers for your missing loved one.**

## HOW TO EFFECTIVELY USE SOCIAL MEDIA FOR SHARING MISSING PERSON PHOTOS AND FLYERS

- Sharing a photo and flyer of a missing individual on social media and encouraging others to repost can have a significant impact in raising awareness and increasing community involvement.
- Determining what information to disclose publicly is critical as it might be essential to maintain confidentiality about sensitive details regarding your missing loved one and their situation.
- It is recommended to share the non-emergency number or tip line of the law enforcement agency rather than sharing personal contact information on online platforms. It is important to maintain privacy to avoid any unintended consequences.
- Reach out to online groups and pages dedicated to missing persons and ask them to share information about your missing loved one.
- To maximize your social media reach and make posts easily discoverable, confidently incorporate hashtags into your posts.
- [#MissingPerson](#) [#MissingFromCityState](#)

When posting about a missing loved one on social media, be aware that negative comments may be received, which can be insensitive, inappropriate, or even blame the missing person. It's okay to feel upset or frustrated by these comments, but you have the right to not respond to them and to delete them if you choose to do so.

The FBI advises caution and vigilance against scammers who may attempt to take advantage of a family's vulnerable state during negative situations by asking for money or other resources.

**Visit [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov) or [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov) to learn about safeguarding against scams.**

## **MEDIA ATTENTION AND INVOLVEMENT**

If you have a missing loved one, one effective way to increase the chances of finding them is by reaching out to local media outlets such as TV stations, newspapers and radio. Social media platforms can also be helpful in this regard.

Another strategy that can help is offering a reward for information that leads to the safe return of the missing person. This can motivate people to come forward with tips and make the case more attractive to journalists.

## **When reaching out to media, consider the following:**

- It is recommended to contact law enforcement before the media to determine what case details can be disclosed to the public and which should remain confidential. This can safeguard the investigation process and prevent hazards from sensitive information leaks.
- It is highly recommended that a designated individual be appointed as the media contact or spokesperson. This person will handle all media inquiries and serve as the point of contact for the public. Designating a specific media contact or spokesperson can ensure that all information is communicated accurately.
- Instead of sharing personal contact information, sharing the law enforcement number or tipline for reporting tips is recommended.
- Request that media outlets promote and encourage the public to share any pertinent information they may have with the local law enforcement agency.
- Offering a reward can be an effective strategy. This may incentivize people to come forward with information that could lead to the person's safe return. Additionally, a reward can make the case more attractive to reporters, increasing the chances of getting media coverage.

## VOLUNTARY MISSING AND CONFIDENTIALITY

**A person who intentionally disappears from their life and does not wish to be found by family or friends is known as a voluntary missing person.**

When someone you care about goes missing, it's possible that they have their own reasons for not disclosing their location or leaving without informing anyone. These reasons could include personal preference or the need to escape an abusive relationship. It is important to respect their right to leave and understand that they may not feel comfortable sharing their current whereabouts.

Law enforcement cannot disclose a missing person's location to their family without their consent. If a missing adult is found alive, they must give permission for their location to be shared.

Families can ask law enforcement to relay a message to a missing loved one. The missing person is not obligated to respond and may have valid reasons for not contacting their family, such as safety concerns.

Domestic violence shelters maintain a confidential relationship with their clients and cannot reveal their location without consent, except for limited exceptions, to ensure their privacy and safety.

## LONG-TERM MISSING

**When all leads have been exhausted, and a person still remains missing, it is classified as a long-term missing person case.**

No matter how long a case lasts, the missing individual is always remembered. Law enforcement, medical examiners, and forensic specialists continue to share information in national missing person databases until the individual is recovered.

Consider updating missing persons flyers with new photos or information to be shared at community awareness events. Nonprofit organizations and community-run groups work to connect missing individuals with their families. If you haven't yet, consider a billboard, bumper stickers, videos, and shirts. For missing children, age progression photos can be beneficial.

Organizing vigils, marches, and candlelight prayer ceremonies can be a helpful way to raise awareness and encourage community support in finding missing loved ones. Missing person organizations, coalitions, and communities can offer valuable assistance in helping families plan and coordinate these events.

## CAUTION AND AWARENESS

**Families dealing with the distress of a loved one's disappearance are being targeted by scammers who take advantage of their vulnerability.**

They now face an additional threat in the form of scammers who are targeting them. They will scour posts regarding missing persons and use this information to send text messages to the family members of the missing. The scammer demands a ransom for the safe return of the missing individual and warns families not to contact the police. If the scammer is successful, they can trick families into paying money via PayPal, Cash App, Venmo, or similar payment methods. It is important to stay aware of this scam and to report any suspicious activity to the authorities immediately.

You may receive contact from private investigators. Some may offer to assist in exchange for a percentage of the reward if offered, while others may offer their services for free. It is important to note that not all investigators have good intentions and may not be trustworthy. Therefore, conducting thorough research and asking for references before agreeing to any terms or making any payments is advisable.



## **SUPPORT AND SELF-CARE**

***During this difficult time, it is important to remember that you are not alone.***

There are resources available to help you cope with ongoing challenges. Make sure to take care of yourself by staying connected with loved ones and relying on your support system. You may experience symptoms of stress and anxiety, such as sweating, tremors, migraines, difficulty concentrating, sleep problems, and anxiousness. If you are having trouble eating or drinking, it is advisable to consult your primary care provider. Your emotional well-being is paramount, so consider seeking help from a therapist or joining a support group to help you navigate this difficult time. Remember, you are not alone, and others understand what you are going through and are willing to offer support. Here are some important tips to keep in mind:

- *Eat nutritious meals regularly and stay hydrated*
- *Make sleep and rest a priority*
- *Practice relaxation methods*
- *Stay connected with family and friends*

**National Institute Of Mental Health**

• *1-866-615-6464*

**CDC Mental Health**

• *Call or Text 988*

**National Alliance On Mental Health**

• *800-950-6264*

## **It's okay to ask for help when you're feeling overwhelmed or struggling to cope with life's challenges.**

You can find support through national hotlines, which provide a safe and confidential environment to discuss your concerns. Whether you prefer to communicate over the phone or through chat services, trained professionals can listen and offer guidance. Not only can they provide emotional support, but they can also connect you with state or local resources to help you address your specific needs. Remember, you're not alone; help is just a phone call or message away.

### **National Human Trafficking Hotline:**

888-373-7888

### **National Runaway Safeline:**

800-786-2929

### **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:**

800-273-8255

### **StrongHearts Native Helpline:**

844-762-8483

### **National Domestic Violence Hotline:**

800-799-7233

# THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

## REWARDS

It can be helpful to offer a reward for any information that leads to the safe return of a missing person. However, it's important to keep law enforcement informed of any decision you make regarding a reward. It's important to note that your reward offer may become a legally binding contract. Therefore, it's crucial to be very precise when describing the terms of the reward and consult with an attorney if you're uncertain about how to proceed.

## CLEARLY STATE THE PURPOSE OF THE REWARD OFFERED

To ensure that everyone is on the same page, it's important to decide what you want the reward to achieve. Be sure to state this purpose clearly in the offer. Also, make the safe return of your loved ones a written condition for claiming the reward. To avoid disputes about compliance with the terms of your offer, it's essential to clearly describe the purpose of the reward clearly.

**Some law enforcement agencies may offer rewards for information in certain circumstances. To find out if there is a reward fund for your missing loved one, contact your local law enforcement agency.**

## **THE FBI WARNS THE PUBLIC OF SCAMMERS SEEKING TO EXTORT FAMILY MEMBERS OF MISSING PERSONS**

Scammers are targeting families of missing persons via social media and demanding ransom without any physical contact with the victim. To avoid falling victim to these scams, remain vigilant, be cautious of unsolicited communication, and report suspicious behavior to relevant authorities.

### **SCAMS RECOMMENDING SERVICES TO FAMILIES OF MISSING PERSONS**

Be cautious when dealing with people who suggest using a private investigator. In this scam, a profile recommends the services of a private investigator or detective. These profiles use fake identities to comment on posts or flyers regarding missing persons. The fraudulent “detectives” may ask for a small fee to guarantee results and bring your loved one home. Beware of red flags like fake profile pictures or account creation dates.

#### **Ways to spot these profiles:**

- Is their profile new or well-established?
- Is their bio bare or non-existent?
- Are their friend and follower counts relatively low?
- Are their photos or posts receiving a low number of likes?

It is crucial to avoid clicking on any suspicious links or downloading files from unknown sources. Refrain from responding to messages that ask for sensitive information such as passwords, social security numbers, or credit card details. Always report such messages. Do your research and ask for credentials, experience, and references. Reach out to other families who have had experience with the individual or company. Check ratings or complaints on the [Better Business Bureau](#) website

## **VICTIM REPORTING**

If you suspect someone is extorting you or someone you know in relation to a missing person:

- Contact your local police or FBI field office [fbi.gov](#)
- File a complaint online at [www.IC3.gov](#)
- Keep all original documentation, emails, texts, and communication logs with the subject. Don't delete anything until law enforcement reviews it.
- Report all online encounters to law enforcement. This is necessary to find the offender despite any potential embarrassment. Be descriptive when reporting online scams.
  - Gather the name and username, email addresses, phone numbers, and websites used by the subject, as well as a description of all interactions with them.

Law enforcement can use more information while investigating, but it's not necessary to receive assistance.

## CAN I HIRE AN INVESTIGATOR?

Yes, it is important to research and evaluate your options carefully. Seeking legal advice is recommended, as an attorney can provide guidance on the legal implications of hiring an investigator.

It is important to verify that their license is up-to-date in the state where the investigation will take place. Check with the Department of Licensing to confirm their status. Another resource is the Better Business Bureau which may report information regarding their business standards. Your due diligence will help ensure a reliable investigator.

Ask for references and inquire about their experience in locating missing persons to help you evaluate their skills and experience. Reviewing the contract carefully before signing or making any payment is also important. Having your legal advisor or attorney review the contract is crucial, as it will ensure that the agreement clearly outlines the services you are paying for and the associated costs.

After hiring an investigator, it is important to notify all parties involved in order to avoid duplication of services and help minimize costs. This will ensure that everyone is aware of the investigation and can work together to achieve the desired outcome.

Finally, Exercise caution when making payments or signing anything. Take the time to research and ask questions before making any decisions. To help protect yourself from phishing scams, review our bulletin warning on the topic.

## **AFTER THEIR RETURN OF YOUR LOVED ONE**

When a loved one returns home after going missing, they may have undergone trauma as a result of their disappearance. Trauma can have both immediate and delayed effects, which can affect an individual's overall well-being. In this section, we intend to provide a detailed overview of how trauma can impact an individual who has experienced it, the kind of healing that survivors may require, and offer guidance on where to seek help for a loved one who may have been a victim of human trafficking. We hope to shed light on the complex nature of trauma and its aftermath, and help those affected by it to find the assistance they need to move forward.

### **SURVIVORS TRAUMA**

Experiencing trauma is a complex and distressing experience that can affect people in different ways. Its impact can last for varying lengths of time. If you want to help a loved one dealing with trauma, it is essential to create a safe and calm environment where they can feel secure and supported. Establishing an emotional connection can provide reassurance and comfort. You can help your loved one regain a sense of normalcy by offering unconditional love and support.

It can be helpful to assist a loved one who is returning home by establishing a routine that includes time for self-care. It's important to refrain from pressuring them to share their story or provide details if they're not ready. Instead, encourage them to reconnect with friends and family and let them know that they have access to support and resources.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain a form of labor or commercial sex act. Any person under the age of 18 who is engaged in commercial sex acts is a victim of human trafficking. It can happen in any community, and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Traffickers might use various methods to lure victims into trafficking situations, such as violence, manipulation, false promises of well-paying jobs, or romantic relationships.

Ensuring the safety of the public and the victim is of utmost importance in cases of human trafficking. It is not recommended to confront a suspected trafficker directly or to alert a victim to any suspicions. It is the responsibility of law enforcement to investigate any suspected cases of human trafficking.

If a loved one was a victim of human trafficking while missing, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text 233733. All calls and texts are confidential; you may request assistance anonymously. The **National Human Trafficking Hotline** offers services and support to get help and stay safe.

To report suspected human trafficking to Federal law enforcement call 1-866-347-2423



## IMPORTANT RESOURCES

### **Department Of Justice, Missing Persons**

This resource page provides information on how to report a missing child and other helpful links.

### **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children**

NCMEC is the nation's largest and most influential child protection organization

### **NamUs**

NamUs is a national resource center for missing and unidentified persons cases across the United States.

## **Missing Person Organizations**

Consider reaching out to missing person organizations that support individuals searching for missing loved ones. These organizations have extensive experience dealing with the challenges that you may be facing and can offer valuable guidance during this difficult and distressing time. Advocacy groups focusing on missing persons understand that your situation is complex and confusing and are prepared to help you navigate it.

## **Bureau of Indian Affairs, Missing and Murdered Indigenous People**

The Missing and Murdered Unit within the Office of Justice Services focuses on analyzing and solving missing and murdered cases involving Native Americans

### **FBI Victim Services**

Phone: 877-236-8947

The Victim Services Division (VSD) informs, supports, and assists victims in navigating the aftermath of crime and the criminal justice process with dignity and resilience.

### **NamUs Regional Program Specialists**

Phone: 877-236-8947

Regional Program Specialists, Technology, and Leadership team members who support the NamUs program

### **Federal Resources on Missing and Exploited Children**

A directory for law enforcement and other private and public agencies published by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

## **Victim Service Providers** (Local Search)

The Office on Violence Against Women's website has a list of local victim service providers, sorted by state. This resource can help you or someone you know find support and assistance in case of violence.

## **Crime Victim Services**

Talk to someone now. Call or text directly at 1-855-4VICTIM (855-484-2846) or **chat** online.

The VictimConnect Resource Center is a referral helpline where crime victims can learn about their rights and options confidentially.

## **FBI's Kidnapping and Missing Persons Investigations**

Law enforcement authorities are looking for information that may lead to the location of these individuals.

## **Directory of Crime Victim Services**

The directory assists crime victims and service providers with finding non-emergency crime victim service programs in the United States.

# JURISDICTIONS

## LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

In cases of adult missing persons, law enforcement's response depends on the circumstances surrounding the disappearance. Law enforcement agencies, including local police and county sheriff's offices, address criminal activity within their jurisdiction. Certain law enforcement agencies have specialized investigators who focus on missing persons. You can visit [Go Law Enforcement](#) to find local agencies in your state.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI)

If a loved one goes missing and foul play is suspected, the FBI may get involved. They can provide assistance in evidence response, intelligence support, and more. Missing persons tips can be submitted at [www.fbi.gov/tips](http://www.fbi.gov/tips) and shared with local law enforcement.

## TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Tribal law enforcement agencies provide public safety such as responding to calls, investigating crimes, enforcing traffic laws, serving processes, and conducting search and rescue. They also help families find appropriate law enforcement agencies when a loved one goes missing off Tribal land.

## BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA)

BIA may get involved in the search if someone goes missing from a Tribal community under its law enforcement responsibility. Local law enforcement may request BIA's assistance in locating the missing person. The public can report missing or murdered Indigenous individuals anonymously by texting "BIAMMU" along with their tip to 847411, calling 833-560-2065, or emailing [ojs\\_mmu@bia.gov](mailto:ojs_mmu@bia.gov)



## NOR-CAL ALLIANCE FOR THE MISSING

When someone you know or love goes missing, it can be an incredibly distressing and overwhelming experience.

Whether you are a family member, friend, or a concerned community member, this guide is here to assist you in locating the missing or provide helpful tips. It is very important to remember that you are not alone, and there are always people and organizations that can provide support and assistance.

*You Are Not Alone*



530-776-7174  
ANDERSON, CALIFORNIA

[NOR-CALALLIANCEFORTHEMISSING.ORG](http://NOR-CALALLIANCEFORTHEMISSING.ORG)

