

A black and white photograph of a person's silhouette looking out a window at a dense city skyline. The person is in the foreground, seen from behind, looking out over a vast urban landscape filled with numerous high-rise buildings. The sky is overcast. The text is overlaid on the image.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS RUN AWAY OR IS MISSING

# THE FIRST 48

THE **LIFEGUARD** GROUP

# THE FIRST

## 48

STATISTICS TELL US THAT **85% OF JUVENILES THAT RUNAWAY OR ARE ON THE STREET ARE APPROACHED BY A PIMP OR TRAFFICKER WITHIN THE FIRST 48 HOURS.** NO TEENAGER EVER ASPIRES TO BECOME HOMELESS, RUNNING FROM THE VERY PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO CARE AND PROTECT HIM/HER. ALTHOUGH MOST KIDS WHO RUN AWAY FROM HOME RETURN WITHIN 48 HOURS, THEY ARE **EXTREMELY VULNERABLE** AND OFTEN ENCOUNTER HIGH RISK SITUATIONS THAT THEY ARE ILL-EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT TEENS ARE LOCATED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. IT IS NORMAL FOR TEENAGERS TO WANT TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS AND TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES, BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY MAY SAY OTHERWISE, MOST WANT THEIR PARENTS TO HELP THEM SORT OUT THEIR PROBLEMS. LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HAS LIMITED RESOURCES TO HELP FAMILIES FIND RUNAWAYS KIDS. **THE LIFEGUARD GROUP** STANDS READY AND WILLING TO HELP YOU LOCATE YOUR CHILD AND GET HIM/HER BACK SAFELY AND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

**IF YOUR CHILD HAS RUNAWAY  
CALL US AT 240-28-GUARD**



THE LIFEGUARD GROUP  
HAS BEEN VETTED  
BY LOCAL LAW  
ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICIALS AND WORKS  
IN CONJUNCTION  
AND COOPERATION  
WITH THEM TO FIND  
YOUR CHILD.



THERE IS NO CHARGE  
TO THE FAMILY!



WE ARE A  
NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
FUNDED  
BY PRIVATE  
DONORS AND  
ORGANIZATIONS  
TO HELP IN CASES  
JUST LIKE THIS.



THERE IS  
ABSOLUTELY NO  
JUDGEMENT AS TO  
WHY YOUR CHILD HAS  
GONE MISSING OR  
RUNAWAY. OUR  
PRIMARY CONCERN IS  
THEIR SAFETY



## **IF YOUR TEENAGER HAS RUN AWAY, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:**

- CALL 911 TO REPORT A MISSING PERSON.
- PRINT OUT THE MOST CURRENT PHOTO THAT YOU HAVE OF YOUR CHILD. PROVIDE THAT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.
- CALL HIS/HER FRIENDS TO ASK ABOUT THE LAST TIME THEY SAW HIM/HER.
- VISIT LOCAL HANGOUTS OR POSSIBLE PLACES HE/SHE MAY HAVE GONE.
- LOOK FOR THEM AT THE BUS STOP AND AIRPORT
- CHECK HIS/HER ROOM AND BELONGINGS TO FIND ANY CLUES OF HIS/HER WHEREABOUTS. CALL AREA SHELTERS TO CHECK TO SEE IF HE/SHE HAS CONTACTED THEM.

## **IF YOUR TEEN CALLS:**

- REMAIN AS CALM AS POSSIBLE IF YOUR TEENAGER CALLS.
- SHOW THAT YOU ARE GENUINELY CONCERNED AND CARE FOR THEM.
- URGE THEM TO COME HOME, BUT LISTEN AS WELL. MANY TEENS JUST WANT THE CHANCE TO BE HEARD.
- REFRAIN FROM SAYING ANYTHING NEGATIVE TO YOUR TEEN, FOR EXAMPLE, "WHEN YOU GET HOME, YOU'RE GOING TO BE GROUNDED."
- TAKE THIS RUNNING AWAY AS A SERIOUS SIGN THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG AND THAT YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER NEEDS HELP.

**[THELIFEGUARDGROUP.ORG](http://THELIFEGUARDGROUP.ORG)**

## WHEN YOUR TEEN COMES HOME

IT'S A VERY EMOTIONAL AND SENSITIVE TIME WHEN A RUNAWAY COMES HOME. THEY WILL FEEL APPREHENSIVE ABOUT WALKING IN THE DOOR BECAUSE HE/SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT.

UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WAS AS TRAUMATIC FOR THEM AS IT HAS BEEN FOR YOU. TAKE THIS TIME TO SHOW YOUR TEENAGER THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO WORK THROUGH ANY OF THE DIFFICULTIES THEY ARE HAVING AND THAT YOU ACCEPT THEIR RETURN WITH OPEN ARMS.

## FOLLOWING ARE SOME OTHER TIPS:

- LISTEN TO YOUR TEEN AND SEEK OUT ANY HELP THAT THEY MAY NEED SINCE THEIR ABSENCE SUCH AS MEDICAL ATTENTION AND/OR COUNSELING.
- CALL ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CONTACTED ABOUT HIS DISAPPEARANCE TO LET THEM KNOW HE IS HOME, INCLUDING LAW ENFORCEMENT.
- MAKE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO SHOW HOW APPRECIATIVE YOU ARE TO HAVE THEM HOME, THAT YOU LOVE THEM, AND WANT TO CARE FOR THEM JUST AS MUCH AS THEY WANT TO BE CARED FOR.



**THE LIFEGUARD GROUP**