

## Did you know...

There are automated systems in place that notify people when missing persons reports that meet certain criteria have been filed.

They are the:

- ♦ **Amber alert:** an emergency message with information about the missing **child** that is broadcasted through radio and television networks.
- ♦ **Silver alert:** an emergency message with information about the missing person **over the age of 65, or over 18 with a mental impairment**, that is broadcasted through radio and television networks.

If you see suspicious activity or think you may have found a missing person, immediately call 911.

## **REPORT**

**to the state police or local law enforcement!**



## For more information, please visit:

**CT State Police**

[www.ct.gov/despp](http://www.ct.gov/despp)

**National Missing And Unidentified Persons System**

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

**National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**

[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)

**Your local police department**



**Office of the Victim Advocate**

505 Hudson Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Hartford, CT, 06106

860-550-6632

Toll Free 1-888-771-3126

Fax: 860-560-7065

[www.ct.gov/ova](http://www.ct.gov/ova)

## Missing Persons: Information You Should Know



## What is the definition of a “missing person” in CT?

- ◆ A missing person by definition is any person who is reported missing to a law enforcement unit.
- ◆ If the person is located or determined to be a voluntarily missing adult, they no longer classify as a missing person.
- ◆ The definition also includes any child who is missing, voluntarily or involuntarily, or under circumstances not conforming to his or her ordinary habits or behavior and who may be in need of assistance.

**There are at least 326 unsolved missing persons cases throughout the state.**

**As of 2013, the FBI reports 84,136 missing person cases nationwide.**

## What should you do if you believe someone you know has gone missing?

- ◆ Report your suspicions to the police - it is NEVER too soon.
- ◆ Make sure to inform the police of any special circumstances— such as whether they are a child or elderly person, or if they are on life-dependent medication.
- ◆ Keep a record of everyone with whom you speak regarding the missing person.
- ◆ Contact friends or family of the missing person and ask if they know their whereabouts, or common places they may visit.
- ◆ Make sure to leave one phone line open for incoming calls while you are making these calls.
- ◆ DO NOT clean the missing person’s room.
- ◆ It is recommended that you not list your phone number on public posters, as to ensure no hoaxes for the reward money, or any harassment. The number for the police department should be listed instead.

## How can you help?

- ◆ Help keep your family safe by being familiar with their routines and habits and taking frequent pictures.
- ◆ **Report** any suspicious activity to the proper authorities - the first 24 hours of a missing persons investigation are crucial.
- ◆ If you know of someone experiencing a missing persons situation, offer to help post flyers or join one of the search parties.
- ◆ **NEVER** hesitate or delay in reporting— time is of the essence.

### *Myth:*

If a loved one goes missing you have to wait 24 hours to file a report with the local or state police.

### *Truth:*

The law in Connecticut permits the immediate reporting of a missing person, regardless of whether they are an adult or a child.