

COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT



ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE
COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1995

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT

WalMarts

Sams Club

American Central Security, Incorporated

Mike Arnold, President
Jack Lascari, Director of Sales and Marketing
David Pulver, Security Consultant
Erin Bee, Administrator
Theresa Walloch, Security Consultant
Bob Autry, Security Consultant
Michelle Reynolds, Telemarketing
Steven Lyons, Security Consultant
Mark S. Nedeau, Security Consultant/Child Net

Denver Online

Tom Roth, V.P. Marketing
Sig Diegel, V.P. Marketing

Private Contributions

Mr. Socorro Gutierrez
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Montano
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Belase
Dr. and Mrs. Dean E. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Javier Medrano
Ms. Patricia McClure
Mr. and Mrs. George MacLean
Ms. Pat Patterson
Mrs. Valerie Aurbeck
Ms. Monica Quintana

Volunteers

Paul Bender
Jeane Kalas
Dorothy Rhue
Diana Voishan
Barbara Washburn



**COLORADO
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Colorado Bureau of Investigation
Carl W. Whiteside, Director**

February 22, 1996

“I’ll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams.” Most people can understand these sentiments, but no one knows the heartbreak of separation from family better than the relatives of a missing child and very few can sympathize with their pain. Sometimes hope is the only thing left for a parent to hold on to.

In the ten years since it’s inception, the Missing Children Project has witnessed hundreds of families struggle in solitude to hold on to the hope that their child will return home. This year, with the commitment of such companies as Wal-Marts, Sams Clubs, American Central Security and Denver On-line, parents no longer need suffer alone. There are others who are sensitive to their plight.

This report helps provide a better understanding of Colorado’s missing children phenomena. Statistics confirm there is cause for concern, but do not begin to quantify the impact on those who have experienced the preventable loss of a child, nor do they identify the number of people affected by each incident.

To the Colorado General Assembly for its support of the Missing Children Project, to law enforcement leaders who have worked so diligently to find and assist so many young people, and to those companies who recognize the importance of community involvement to protect and help return our children, we offer our thanks and gratitude. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation pledges its continuing support to make Colorado a safer place for its most valuable citizens, our children.



**Carl W. Whiteside
Director**

Roy Romer
GOVERNOR

Patrick C. Ahlstrom
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Division of
Criminal Justice

Colorado State
Patrol

Colorado Bureau
of Investigation

Division of
Fire Safety



690 Kipling Street, Suite 3000
Denver, Colorado 80215-5825
(303) 239-4300
Admin. FAX (303) 235-0568
Invest. FAX (303) 238-6714

3416 North Elizabeth Street
Pueblo, Colorado 81008
(719) 542-1133
FAX (719) 542-6411

301 South Nevada Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81401
(970) 249-8621
FAX (970) 249-6308





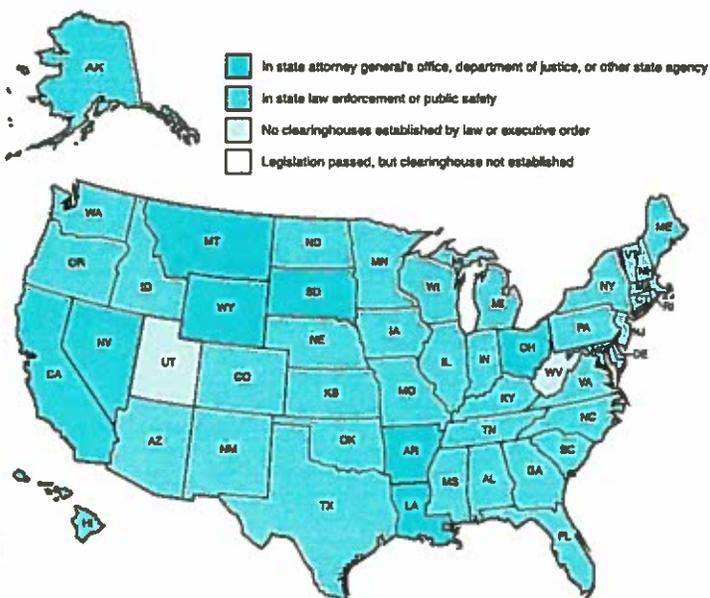
INTRODUCTION

Each year, thousands of children are reported missing in the United States. Although many return safely, those who are not continue to be exposed to harmful and dangerous situations. In response to the growing national concern for missing and exploited children, the Federal Children's Assistance Act was passed in 1982. It directed the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to become actively involved in missing children cases. Federal efforts were further strengthened by the creation of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in 1984.

During this time, child abduction cases were becoming more highly publicized in Colorado and public concern was mounting. In 1985, the legislature created the Colorado Missing Children Project. The Project serves as a central repository for information on missing children in order to better define the problem. It collects, compiles, exchanges, and disseminates information to help find missing children. Towards this end, the Project is responsible for obtaining dental records of children who have been missing thirty or more days, comparing new student records with reports of missing children, and reviewing each missing child report submitted by every law enforcement agency in Colorado.

The NCMEC and the United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention instituted a program establishing state level clearinghouses for missing children. Seven state projects, including Colorado's, were selected to participate in this pilot program. Because of its great success, there are now forty States with legislation authorizing missing children clearinghouses and four other States with clearinghouses established by executive order.

State Clearinghouses



DEFINITIONS

CCIC — Colorado Crime Information Center.

Kidnapped — A person who is missing under circumstances indicating that the disappearance is not voluntary and who has been abducted by a stranger or non-family member.

Lost — A person who is presumed to have wandered away and has become lost and unable to return to a known location.

Missing child — A child whose whereabouts are unknown, whose domicile at the time he was first reported missing was Colorado, and whose age at the time he was reported missing was seventeen years or younger.

NCIC — National Crime Information Center.

NCMEC — The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Non-custodial abduction — The taking of a child by the non-custodial parent or family member, with the intent to deprive the legal parent or guardian possession of that child.

Runaway — An unemancipated juvenile who has left the home environment without a parent's or legal guardian's permission. (Classified as non-suspicious for statistical purposes.)

Suspicious — A person who is missing with insufficient information to enable placing the record in any other probable category.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MISSING CHILDREN PROJECT

LISTS

The Project compiles and distributes lists of missing children from reports submitted by local law enforcement agencies. The reports are released to school districts and to any other entity or person the Project determines may be instrumental in the identification and recovery of missing children.

STATISTICS

Consistent with statute, the Project maintains and distributes statistics on missing children which include:

The number of missing children reported.

The number of missing children cases resolved.

The approximate physical location at which each child was last seen.

The time of day each child was last seen.

The age, gender, and physical description of each child reported missing.

The activity the child was engaged in at the time last seen.

The number of reported sightings of missing children.

The Project documents the circumstances of recovery of missing children. These include a breakdown by age, race, and sex in cases resolved by: recovery by a law enforcement agency, recovery by an agency other than law enforcement, voluntarily returned, deceased, and circumstances unknown. These were summarized for the first time in the 1991 Annual Report to give a clearer picture of what is being done to resolve missing children cases in Colorado.

MONITORING

The Project reviews each missing child report to the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for validity, completeness and accuracy and insures the originating agency makes any necessary corrections or additions.

When a child has been missing for thirty days, the Project must attempt to obtain the child's dental records and attach them to the NCIC missing person report.

The Project sends lists of children missing from Colorado to each Colorado school district for comparison with their enrollment records to identify missing children in their schools. If a district chooses, it may submit enrollment lists to the Project for comparison with NCIC records to locate children missing from all states. When a match is verified, the Project notifies the appropriate authorities to facilitate the return of the missing child.

VICAP

In 1985, the FBI began a special program to collect, collate and analyze specific crimes of violence nationwide.

The Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP) accepts reports on solved and unsolved homicides or attempts, especially where abduction is involved; missing persons where circumstances indicate a possibility of foul play; and unidentified persons when homicide is suspected.

The information is then analyzed to determine if similar pattern characteristics exist among the individual cases in the system. Where a pattern is determined, the VICAP staff provides

the information to the involved law enforcement agencies to facilitate a coordinated multi-agency investigation.

In 1992, the Missing Children Project began coordinating the collection of this extremely valuable information in Colorado to submit to the FBI/VICAP in Quantico, Virginia to be included in our own state VICAP program.

ACTIVITIES AS A STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Develop and present specialized training programs to criminal justice and youth service professionals.

Provide information regarding cases originating in Colorado to the NCMEC for inclusion in the national directory of missing and abducted children

Provide and ensure follow-up on all missing children cases originating in other states but linked to Colorado in some way.

Provide information to out-of- state agencies concerning applicable Colorado State laws, relevant agency interrelationships, and recovery procedures.

Help reunite missing children with their lawful parent or guardian by establishing cooperative mechanisms with other state clearinghouses.

Act as a clearinghouse for photographs of missing children and cooperate with those who wish to publicize these photographs.

Assist in the preparation of missing children bulletins and their distribution to law enforcement agencies and school districts.

Counsel citizens and business groups on how they may respond to the plight of missing children.

Attempt to locate abductors by completing nationwide automated record and file searches and interacting with other organizations, agencies, or groups that may be instrumental in locating missing children.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Sponsor special programs for victim children and their parents or guardians. Such programs include the ADVO's "America's Looking for Its Missing Children" program which distributes over 16 billion photographs of missing children each year to over 53 million households. This program provides a much broader distribution of missing children bulletins than any single state Clearinghouse and has been directly responsible for reuniting 64 children with their families.

Project ALERT (America's Law Enforcement Retiree Team) was implemented to utilize the expertise and experience of retired law enforcement officers for the benefit of law enforcement agencies needing assistance with all categories of missing and exploited children cases. The assistance provided by these highly specialized volunteers includes, but is not limited to: case assistance, consultation, speaking engagements, and general administrative support to police agencies. All ALERT volunteers must have had extensive experience in the investigation of similar cases and must complete a one week training program developed by the NCMEC after which they are considered for certification. Currently the ALERT program consists of 45 certified volunteers nationwide. Upon request, a volunteer will be provided and any travel expenses paid by the NCMEC. The requesting agency is asked only to provide essential provisions (desk, telephone, etc.) and on-site transportation.

The NCMEC provides technical services to all law enforcement agencies in the search for missing children. The most instrumental has been computerized age enhancement. Through a donation, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has been able to set up a Video Imaging Laboratory. With this equipment, the NCMEC is able to distribute age enhanced pictures of missing children to law enforcement agencies and the general public more quickly, generating an earlier response, and improving the odds of finding the child. These services have also been extended to include face reconstruction of unidentified deceased persons, identification of children from confiscated child pornography, and the training of forensic artists using comparable equipment. Previously, artists had been able to create aged likenesses by hand using the pictures on file. However, it could take up to 80 hours to create a picture manually and is very expensive. With the electronic photography equipment, age-enhanced pictures can be produced in less than 5 hours.

In 1992, a grant from the Justice Department enabled the NCMEC to establish a national computerized information network utilizing various programs to distribute data on miss-

ing children. One program is a CompuServe forum which allows the clearinghouses to exchange information on missing children cases and participate in on-line discussions. Much of this information is now available to the general public through CompuServe in a forum called "Go Missing". Citizens can view posters, download publications and post messages. CompuServe's Internet Division has expanded global efforts by creating a web page that can bring images of missing children to millions of Internet users at: <http://www.missingkids.org>.

Mapinfo's Desktop Mapping Software allows the NCMEC to plot cases and sightings of missing children, establish profiles, link related cases, and pinpoint patterns. This information is compiled from both the missing children reports received from the Clearinghouses and from hot-line calls.

Training and technical assistance are provided to criminal justice and youth service professionals in both missing children issues and youth exploitation. Training and consultation are also provided to health care professionals in the prevention of infant abductions and the recovery of missing infants.

Transportation and lodging are provided for custodial parents who cannot afford such expenses to recover their missing child(ren). Through a voluntary effort on the part of hotel managers and coordinated by the NCMEC, Quality International will provide up to three nights lodging to a custodial parent and their child(ren). The "Let's Find Them" program designed by Greyhound/Trailways, provides transportation for a custodial parent to recover their missing child(ren). American Airlines also provides transportation but only in emergency situations when a child has been abducted by a stranger, or is believed to be endangered. Parents who wish to use these services must do so through the NCMEC.

After identifying pending legislation relating to missing and exploited children the NCMEC not only follows it through the legislative process, but keeps all clearinghouses apprised of its status.

Handbooks for use by parents, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and federal, State, or local officials who deal with missing and exploited children are published and distributed in either hard copy or through the CompuServe Forum, "Go Missing". The handbooks available are: *Child Molesters: A Behavioral Analysis*; *Child Sex Rings: A Behavioral Analysis*; *Children Traumatized in Sex Rings*; *Interviewing Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation*; *Investigator's Guide to Missing Child Cases*; *Nonprofit Service Provider's Handbook*; *Parental Kidnapping*; *Selected State Legislation*; and *Youth At Risk*. The following brochures are also available and come in various languages: *Child Protection*; *For Camp Counselors*; *For Hospital Professionals*; *KIDS AND COMPANY: Together for Safety*; *My 8 Rules for Safety*; and a series called "Just in Case" which includes: *Your Are*

Considering Highroad; You Are Considering Family Separation; You Are Dealing With the Loss of a Child; You Need a Babysitter; Your Child is a Runaway; Your Child is Missing; Your Child is Testifying in Court; Your Child is the Victim of Sexual Abuse or Exploitation.

A twenty-four hour international hot-line to report information and request assistance concerning missing and exploited children is managed by the NCMEC and made available in the United States, Canada and Mexico to help ensure case follow up by the proper authorities. Also administered by the NCMEC is the National Child Pornography Tipline and the Alzheimer's Association Safe Return Hot-line.

SPECIAL RESOURCES

VALE GRANT

The Colorado General Assembly enacted House Bill 1264 in 1985 to establish the Assistance to Victims and Witnesses to Crime and Aid to Law Enforcement Act. The Act mandates a surcharge on fines imposed for felonies, misdemeanors and class 1 and 2 traffic offenses. A percentage of the monies collected is dispersed to the local Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) boards to be awarded to agencies for projects and services. The Project has been fortunate to receive funding from the State VALE Board since 1990 which has enabled the Project staff to be increased by one part-time employee. The additional assistance in 1995 made it possible for the Project to provide "STRANGER AWARENESS" training to kindergarten, first, and second grade students in an effort to help children better understand what a stranger is, as well as teaching some basic safety tips.

CONTRIBUTING SUPPORT

TRANSPORTATION

Greyhound/Trailways offers a program for runaways who wish to return home. A law enforcement officer or officer of the court must escort the child to a local bus station and confirm a runaway report exists for the child and that a parent or guardian has been contacted. The bus company will then provide a one-way ticket for the child's return home.

NON-PROFIT ASSISTANCE

Many non-profit public assistance organizations are often the product of tragedy and grief. Such is the case with the A.L.I.E. (Abducted, Lost, Innocent and Enough) foundation which was organized in Colorado after the violent death of five-year old Alesandra Berrelez in May of 1993. This non-profit organization is dedicated to providing a safer

society for our children. It does so by: encouraging adults to become involved; providing literature, education, support and assistance; and donating bloodhounds to police departments for the purpose of saving lives and apprehending criminals.

Parents of Murdered Children (POMC), also originated from a similar experience and continues to grow as violent crime increases. POMC has over 100 chapters nationwide (including the Front Range Chapter in Denver) providing assistance and support to over 38,000 survivors throughout the United States and abroad. POMC was established to: provide ongoing emotional support to help parents and other survivors deal with their loss; provide contact with similarly bereaved persons and to establish support groups; provide information about the grieving process and the criminal justice system; communicate with professionals in support fields; and increase public awareness of the problems survivors face.

PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores nationwide have taken the leadership role in the business community in the search for our missing children. After an attempted abduction in 1994 more than 2,000 Wal-Mart stores nationwide implemented a new security policy named in tribute to Adam Walsh. When a CODE-ADAM is announced, all store personnel stop job responsibilities to look for the lost child, this includes monitoring all of the store exits to ensure that the child does not leave the store.

Community involvement is very important in the recovery of missing children; public awareness and education can also lead to the prevention of this problem. Understanding this necessity the retail chain launched a photo display program which about 2,000 stores nationwide participate in. Wal-Mart offers exposure of missing children pictures, which has resulted in 3 documented cases of children being returned home within the first few months of the programs existence.

American Central Security, Incorporated (ACS), a Colorado company is in the business of supplying security systems for commercial and residential clients. Unlike other security companies, ACS allows the customer to own the system from installation day. Another unique feature is that the systems supplied by ACS can communicate with any monitoring station. Systems of this type generally retail for up to twelve hundred dollars.

"Dedicated to the Prevention and Recovery of Colorado's Missing Children", ACS is supplying security systems for a donation of twenty five dollars which goes directly to the Project. The only responsibility to the end user is to use the local Colorado monitoring company. ACS is absorbing all the upfront costs for equipment, installation and warranty in exchange for a contribution to the Project.

FACTS OF INTEREST 1994

The total number of children reported missing in 1995 is almost equal to the population of Canon City, Colorado.

An average of 54 children are reported missing every 24 hours in Colorado.

In 1995 97% of the children reported missing in Colorado were classified as non-suspicious cases or runaways.

Approximately 12% of the children reported missing were females under the age of 14.

Approximately 10% of the children reported missing were males under the age of 14.

Approximately 44% of the children reported missing were females 14 years of age and over.

Approximately 33% of the children reported missing were males 14 years of age and over.

In comparison to all other days of the week, more children were reported missing on Friday.

In comparison to all other months, more children were reported missing and more cases were resolved during the month of October.

The number of stranger abductions reported in 1995 dropped by 17 cases from 1994.

The number of non-custodial family abductions reported in 1995 increased by 28 cases from 1994.

Information in this report was provided to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by local law enforcement agencies using the CCIC automated information system. Each report filed with the local agency is entered into the CCIC computer as a separate case. The numbers reflect cases as opposed to actual missing children; i.e., some children may have been reported missing, recovered and subsequently missing once more. Also, because this data is based only on reports, the Project has no way of identifying those children who have not been reported to local authorities by parents, legal guardians, or subsequently by law enforcement to the CBI.

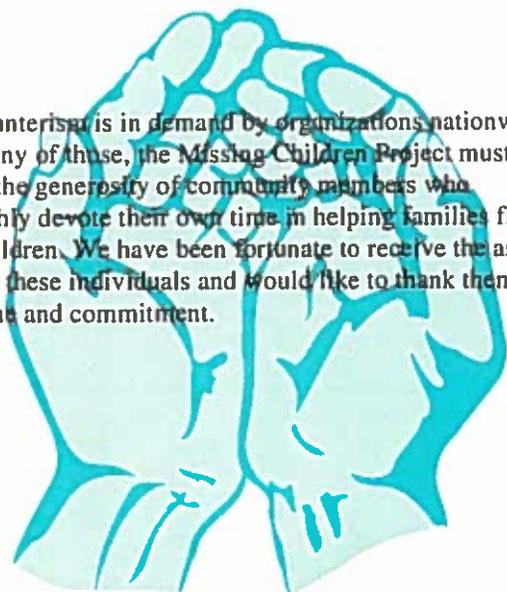
In addition to the financial aspect of the assistance provided by ACS, the company President is supplying resource material to be distributed to parents consisting of guidelines concerning daycare, babysitting, and missing children in general.

Denver Online, sponsored by Riegel Properties and Voodoo Graphics, is a World Wide Web site on the Internet developed for the purpose of providing local business access to the marketing potential of the Internet. It is hosted by an advanced computer that capable of hosting as many as 100 simultaneous connections.

A recent survey by Nielsen Media Research indicates that "37 million people in the United States and Canada, currently have Internet access." The U.S. currently has more Internet connections than any other country and Colorado has more connections per capita than any other state.

The sponsors of Denver Online felt a need to provide access to this wide distribution network to Colorado's missing children as a community service. A Web Page has been created that will provide: information about the Missing Children Project, statistics on Colorado missing children cases, safety and prevention tips, pictures and descriptive data on missing children cases, As well as a link to the NCMEC's Web Site where additional information and pictures can be found. The Internet address for Denver Online is: <http://www.denveronline.com> and the direct address for the missing children page is: <http://www.denveronline.com/DenverOnline/cmipc/index.html>

Volunteerism is in demand by organizations nationwide. Like many of those, the Missing Children Project must also rely on the generosity of community members who unselfishly devote their own time in helping families find their children. We have been fortunate to receive the assistance of these individuals and would like to thank them for their time and commitment.



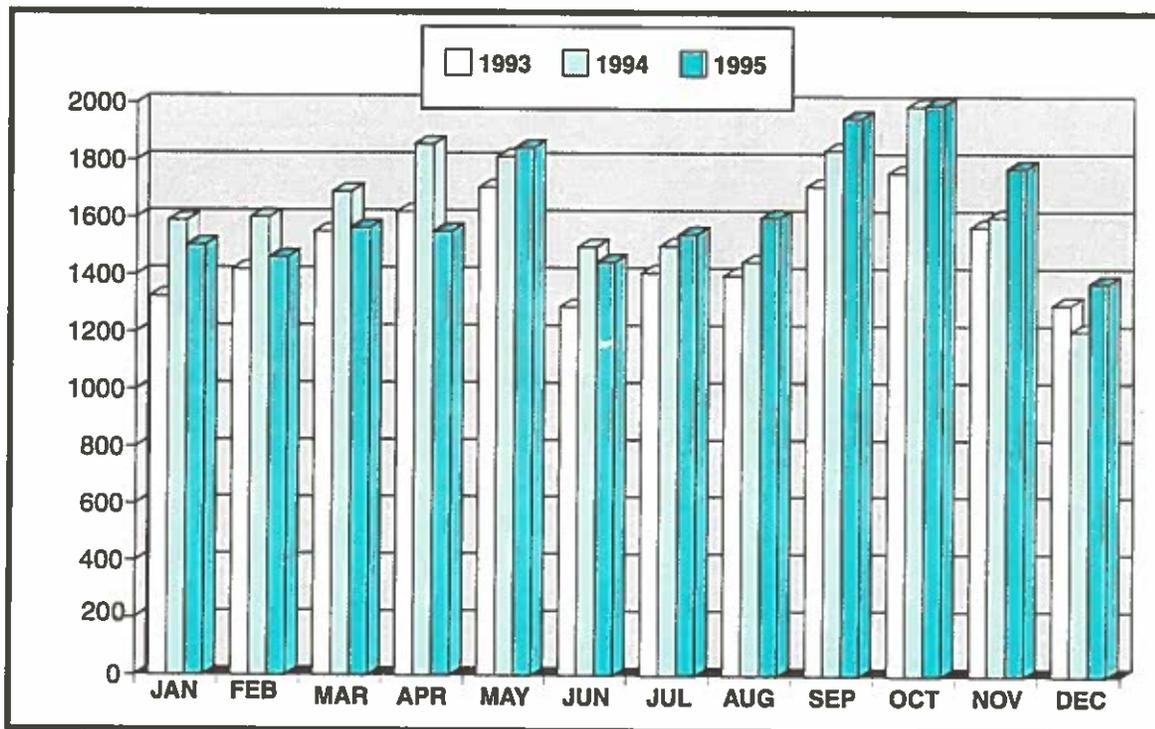
MISSING CHILDREN REPORTS RECEIVED AND REVIEWED

An average of 1,634 missing children reports were taken by Colorado law enforcement agencies each month. The most significant increases occurred in August, September, November and December of over 100 reports more each of those months.

JANUARY	1503
FEBRUARY	1461
MARCH	1565
APRIL	1552
MAY	1845
JUNE	1446
JULY	1543
AUGUST	1602
SEPTEMBER	1949
OCTOBER	1995
NOVEMBER	1776
DECEMBER	1376
TOTAL	19,613

MISSING CHILDREN ENTRIES

There was an increase of 1,546 missing children records from 1993 to 1995 and a slight decrease of 30 records from 1994 to 1995.



CIRCUMSTANCES OF MISSING CHILDREN

Statistics indicate that of all the reports received, 96.7 percent were considered non-suspicious. This classification typically signifies children who have either run away from their residence or have been taken by a family member but are not considered to be a victim of a non-custodial abduction. Only .2 percent were categorized as children who were lost. Stranger abductions decreased by 17 reports for a total of .1 percent, and .4 percent were non-custodial family abductions. A suspicious circumstance is a situation in which it is not believed that the child left by his/her own accord, but there is no evidence to prove there was an abduction. Of the reported cases, 2.6 percent were classified as suspicious.

AGE	NON-SUSPICIOUS	LOST	KIDNAPPED	FAMILY ABDUCTION	SUSPICIOUS	TOTALS
ONE	84	0	5	6	25	120
TWO	14	0	0	8	14	36
THREE	15	0	1	5	15	36
FOUR	10	0	0	11	14	35
FIVE	19	0	0	7	5	31
SIX	14	0	3	5	6	28
SEVEN	37	1	0	3	15	56
EIGHT	49	1	0	5	8	63
NINE	70	0	0	1	5	76
TEN	91	0	0	5	5	101
ELEVEN	269	2	1	5	12	289
TWELVE	967	4	0	4	49	1024
THIRTEEN	2277	6	3	5	63	2354
FOURTEEN	4215	4	3	7	57	4286
FIFTEEN	4853	13	4	6	90	4966
SIXTEEN	3918	9	1	1	79	4008
SEVENTEEN	2068	1	1	1	33	2104
TOTAL	18970	41	22	85	495	19613

AGE, RACE, AND SEX OF MISSING CHILDREN

More white females between the ages of fourteen and sixteen were reported missing than any other age, gender and race, with 36 percent. Subsequently, white males between the ages of fourteen and sixteen constitute 25 percent of the reported missing children.

AGE & SEX	WHITE	BLACK	NATIVE AMERICAN	ASIAN	UNKNOWN	TOTALS
ONE						
Females	48	3	1	2	0	54
Males	53	12	0	1	0	66
TWO						
Females	11	1	0	0	0	12
Males	19	4	0	1	0	24
THREE						
Females	21	3	0	0	0	24
Males	9	2	0	1	0	12
FOUR						
Females	11	3	0	0	0	14
Males	18	3	0	0	0	21
FIVE						
Females	16	1	0	0	0	17
Males	10	4	0	0	0	14
SIX						
Females	15	1	0	0	0	16
Males	9	3	0	0	0	12
SEVEN						
Females	14	3	0	1	1	19
Males	28	7	1	1	0	37
EIGHT						
Females	17	6	1	0	0	24
Males	32	7	0	0	0	39
NINE						
Females	11	9	0	0	0	20
Males	40	13	1	2	0	56
TEN						
Females	32	2	2	0	0	36
Males	50	14	1	0	0	65
ELEVEN						
Females	98	15	6	6	0	125
Males	144	19	1	0	0	164
TWELVE						
Females	468	57	15	12	4	556
Males	400	54	6	4	4	468
THIRTEEN						
Females	1288	89	16	12	10	1415
Males	818	92	6	11	12	939
FOURTEEN						
Females	2472	132	16	19	24	2663
Males	1439	130	12	30	12	1623
FIFTEEN						
Females	2625	165	18	26	22	2856
Males	1911	154	3	22	20	2110
SIXTEEN						
Females	1988	138	20	26	20	2192
Males	1661	125	5	17	8	1816
SEVENTEEN						
Females	931	45	10	16	8	1010
Males	982	86	3	18	5	1094
TOTALS	17689	1402	144	227	151	19613

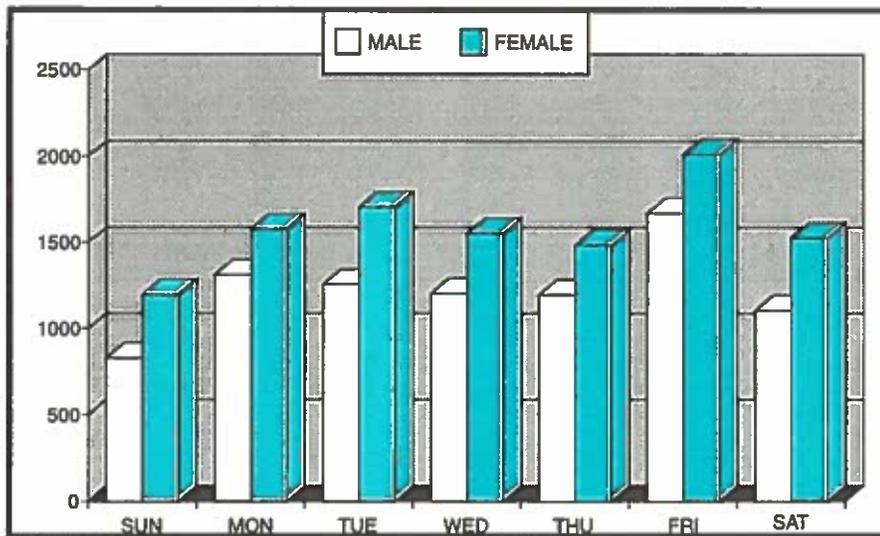
ACTIVITY REPORT

Most children, 81 percent, were reported to have been last seen inside their residence. A residence can be a family home, non-profit residential group home, foster home or residential treatment facility.

ACTIVITY	MALES	FEMALES
AT RESIDENCE INSIDE	6872	8944
AT RESIDENCE OUTSIDE	171	204
AT FRIEND/RELATIVE INSIDE	75	121
AT FRIEND/RELATIVE OUTSIDE	47	78
PUBLIC PLACE INSIDE	113	126
PUBLIC PLACE OUTSIDE	208	234
INSIDE SCHOOL BUILDING	145	178
OUTSIDE SCHOOL BUILDING	124	186
PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT	22	46
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	82	150
TRAVELING TO/FROM ON FOOT	103	162
TRAVELING TO/FROM IN VEHICLE	70	87
TRAVELING TO/FROM BY BICYCLE	7	0
IN CUSTODY OF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION	142	154
LOCAL AREA TRIP	7	10
VACATION	7	15
UNKNOWN	365	358
TOTAL	8,560	11,053

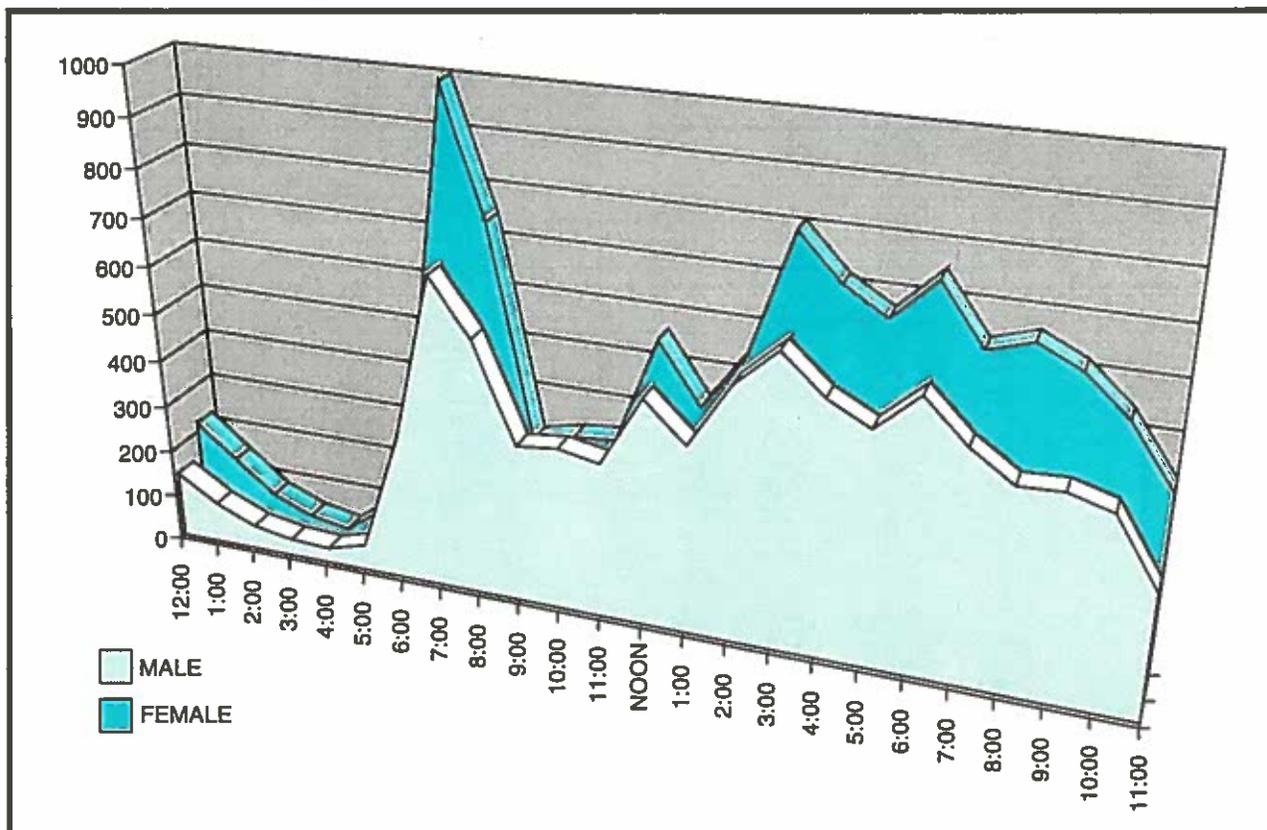
DAY COUNT OF MISSING CHILDREN

Friday is the day that children are most often reported to have been last seen with 18.8 percent: 1,669 males and 2,011 females. Sunday is the day that children are least often reported missing with only 10.3 percent: 828 males and 1,194 females. The largest disparity between the number of reports of males and females occurs on Monday with 453 more females than males being reported missing.



TIME LAST SEEN COUNT

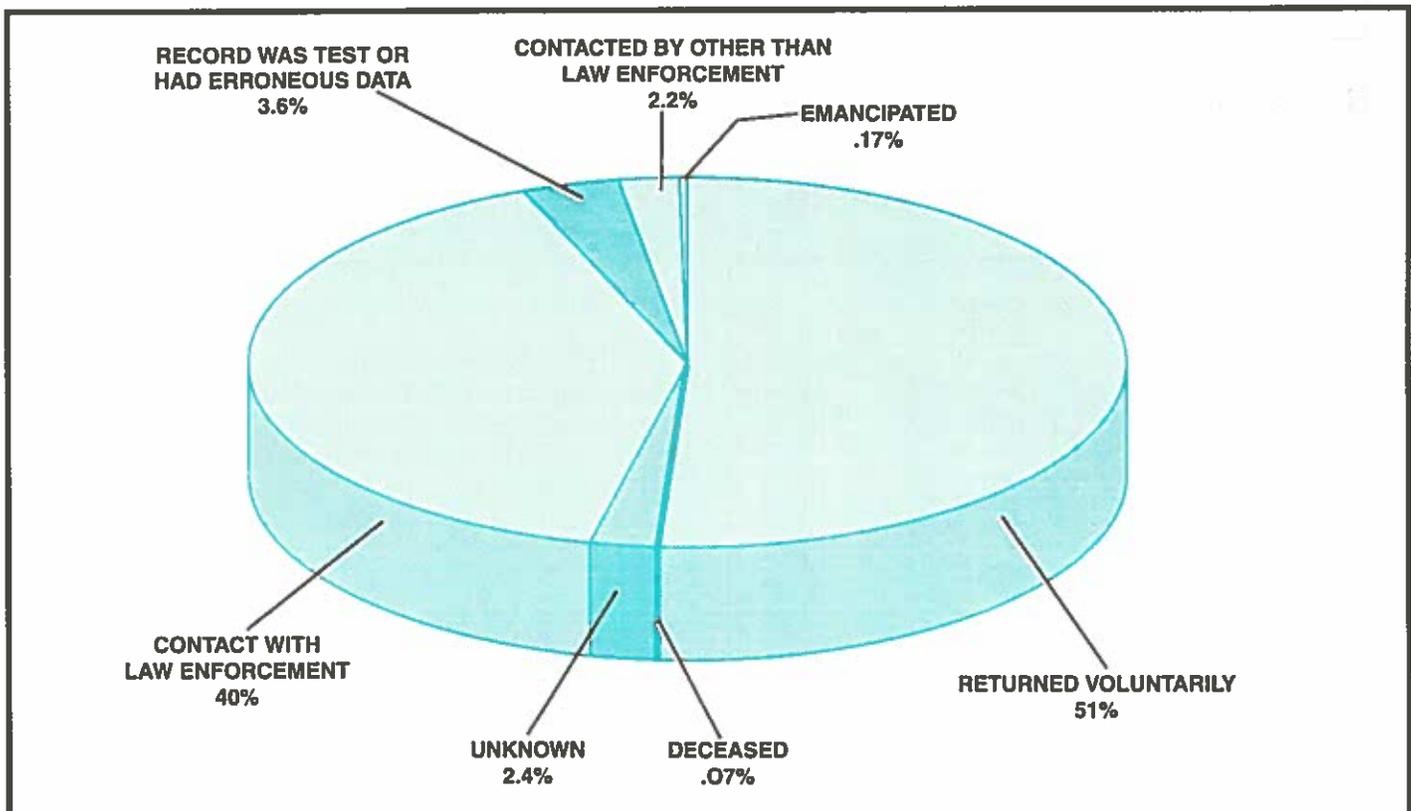
Reports indicate 7:00 a.m. to be the most prevalent time of the day children were last seen, accounting for more than 8 percent of all reports. It is also the time of day when the most significant difference between genders exists with 340 more females missing than males.



CIRCUMSTANCE OF RECOVERY

Of the cases which were closed in 1995, 51 percent were resolved when either the child returned or was returned voluntarily. Law enforcement contact was responsible for closing another 40 percent or 7,585 cases.

SEX	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
RETURNED VOLUNTARILY													
Females	464	449	474	418	517	387	399	467	483	528	534	418	5538
Males	333	309	353	308	386	313	329	331	378	428	372	306	4146
CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT													
Females	287	367	373	338	376	297	316	316	436	434	392	311	4152
Males	231	272	303	274	277	275	255	315	321	389	294	227	3433
CONTACTED BY OTHER THAN LAW ENFORCEMENT													
Females	17	15	37	11	17	16	13	26	23	32	22	16	245
Males	6	10	23	11	18	11	14	22	11	24	12	9	171
UNKNOWN													
Females	20	22	16	13	28	25	23	14	16	22	26	24	249
Males	19	18	9	17	36	13	19	14	16	19	16	14	210
RECORD WAS TEST OR HAD ERRONEOUS DATA													
Females	17	18	21	25	19	22	31	34	56	41	42	41	367
Males	20	15	23	27	31	23	25	37	34	30	33	15	313
DECEASED													
Females	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	8
Males	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	6
EMANCIPATED													
Females	0	1	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	3	2	1	15
Males	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	9	0	18
TOTALS	1415	1497	1637	1445	1706	1383	1429	1580	1777	1955	1756	1382	18962



BEWARE OF STRANGERS!

As our children are growing up and learning the lessons of life we always caution them about strangers. That statement is incomplete, children need to learn that it is not always a stranger who would hurt them, it could be someone they know and care about. In 1990 the Case Enhancement and Information Analysis Unit (CEIAU) was established. The unit supports the Case Management Division, law enforcement, clearinghouses, and others by analyzing the lead and sighting information received through NCMEC's Hotline. The CEIAU staff believed that there was information within NCMEC's recovered case files that might be valuable to those individuals working with missing child cases. The CEIAU examined 210 cases in which the child was recovered deceased which encompassed a ten year period, and consisted of children who were reported as missing to NCMEC. These cases consisted mostly of children abducted by someone they knew but also included those whose deaths were accidental or self-inflicted. The cases studied included 86 males (41 percent) and 124 females (59 percent). White females were the largest victim group, white males were next then black males, and black females.

RACE	MALES	FEMALES
White	64	97
Black	13	12
Asian	2	6
Hispanic	7	8
American Indian	0	1
Totals:	86	124

Homicide was the cause of death in 68 percent of the victims, females were victims twice as often as males. Accidental, self-inflicted, undetermined or death by exposure was the cause of death in the remaining 32 percent. While

ACCIDENTS/NON-HOMICIDES	MALES	FEMALES
Accidental Drowning	15	4
Accidental Electrocuton	1	0
Accidental Gunshot	1	0
Accidental Asphyxiation	1	1
Accidental Suffocation	2	0
Exposure/Hypothermia	6	1
Suicide by Gun	4	0
Suicide by Hanging	1	2
Suicide by Drug Overdose	0	1
Vehicular	2	0
Undetermined/Unknown	5	20
Total	38	29

females were more often the victims of homicide, accidental death was the most frequent cause in males.

HOMICIDES	MALES	FEMALES
Asphyxiation	2	12
Beating	1	3
Blunt Force Trauma	9	10
Broken Neck	0	1
Burns	0	1
Forced Drowning	1	5
Gunshot Wounds	13	9
Suffocation	2	3
Strangulation (by Ligature)	4	16
Strangulation (Manual)	4	18
Slit Throat	4	3
Stab Wounds	8	12
Torture	0	1
Exposure/Beating/Starvation	0	1
Total	48	95

The 143 homicide cases clearly defines the relationships between age and gender of the victim with cause of death, gender of suspect and relationship of suspect to victim.

Children under the age of 5:

- *the cause of death was more likely physical means
- *the suspect was equally likely to be male or female
- *more likely to be a family member
- *molestation was not the likely motive

Children between the ages of 5 and 12:

- *the cause of death is more likely to be physical means
- *the suspect is more likely to be male
- *a stranger
- *with the motive most likely to be sexual in female victims

Children 12 years and older:

- *the major cause of death in males is by gun or knife
- *physical means with the female victims
- *the motive is sexual in 31 percent of the female cases
- *the suspect is likely a close friend or a stranger
- *less likely a family member.

For more information on the "Deceased Child Project" contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children 2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 550, Arlington, VA 22201-3052, or by calling 1-800-843-5678.

This annual report is dedicated each year to a missing child. Families of missing children are rarely viewed as victims and very few forums exist that allow them opportunities to express their pain. Many people need to talk about their tragedy in order to endure the heartache and the following is from such a parent.

Introduction

My name is Chris Handsel. I am the father of Kaelyn Elizabeth Handsel. My daughter was taken away from her home by her mother on June 30, 1993, when she was just two years old. As of December 31, 1995, she is still missing.

I am 34 years old, and am employed as an electronic engineer in sales. Before my daughter was abducted, I knew almost nothing about the issue of missing children. As with any field of study, this issue has it's own terminology, experts, specialties, and controversies. Committed to finding my daughter, this issue has become like a second career to me. I have found that the most powerful tool to recovering children is public participation, and the most burdensome opposition to the mitigation of this problem is public ignorance and misconception. So for my daughter's sake, I look for any opportunity to write or speak on the subject, including this one.

My intent in this description is to illustrate what I have learned and experienced.

What is Family Abduction

How can you call it "abduction" if the child is taken by a parent? When a family member takes a child in violation of a custody order, leaving a parent behind without contact with their child, there are at least two very real victims. With some empathy, the damage to the interests of the left-behind parent can be fairly easily inferred. I will later describe the well documented experience of the other victim — the family-abducted child.

It is widely recognized that some parents secret their children away legitimately for their protection. These parents are a small minority, and this is primarily about abducting parents without this motive.

The tragedy of this lifestyle, is that the abducted children are forced to live as fugitives. Abducted children are often not allowed to have friendships with other children or families, for fear that they might be recognized from a poster or broadcast. They are often kept permanently inside with the curtains drawn, or moved frequently from town to town. Abducted children are often given new identities, including new names. Their parent might color their hair, or make them wear a wig outside. Some parents even change the child's wardrobe to change the apparent sex of the child. These are not hypothetical, but real circumstances that many of my friends' children have endured. This is parental nurturing? No, this is deplorable.

What is said about the parent left behind? There must be some answer to this question, because children inevitably ask. Children are told that their other parent is dead, or that their parent won't come for them because they don't love them any more, or that their parent is evil. Consider the trauma of these concepts to a child, and consider that there are few forms of child abuse more cruel than this. And imagine the trauma of a child being reunited with their "dead", "rejecting", or "evil" parent. Dramatically, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children describes abduction, including family, as one of the most severe forms of child mal-treatment.

And finally, some family abductions have ended with the abductor murdering their own children.

Describe the person that would inflict the above environment on their children. I have seen two main motivations for the act: anger and revenge. At least 80% of family abductions have these primary motives. The anger potentially comes from the humiliation of losing custody, or from having to pay child support. The revenge motive potentially comes from a contentious divorce, or a failed relationship, and the desire to hurt the estranged spouse by denying them a relationship with their children. And these motivations must run so deep that they ultimately take precedence over a parent's nurturing instinct for their children.

In about 75% of family abductions, there is at least one family member left behind with whom the abductor maintains contact and derives some form of support. These relatives generally act out of a belief that they are doing what is best for the child, or are simply willing to ignorantly do anything in support of their "clan". The defensive denial and dysfunction of this is striking. It treats the children and the other family with complete and malicious disregard.

My Story

Kristina and I had dated for about a year and a half, and were at the end the relationship when she became pregnant. During her first trimester, a friend of hers uncovered a number of things I was not aware of, including another potential father of her baby. Her lack of honesty about this, and her later diagnosis as a "habitual liar", created some serious problems between us. However, by the time Kaelyn was born, we had established enough of a rapport that I was present in the delivery room for Kaelyn's birth, on May 14, 1991. Kristina was also happy to have me care for Kaelyn a couple times a week for the following months.

When Kaelyn was about nine months old, we found through DNA testing that she is my daughter. Immediately after we became aware of the test results, Kristina told me that Kaelyn "missed" me and wanted to spend more time with me. I jumped at the opportunity, knowing that I would have no better chance to have a part in raising my daughter than by agreement with her mother. And starting the very next day, I had taken on nearly all the parenting tasks. Kristina had a day-care business in her apartment, so Kaelyn was with her mother during the day, and by Kristina's request, I arrived each evening after work to take Kaelyn home with me.

We typically went to the park, or the mall, or just played in the backyard. Then we did the typical dinner, bath, stories, and bed. The next morning, we were up early for cuddling and giggling, breakfast, dressing, and to her mother's day-care before I went to work. Most weekends for me and Kaelyn started Friday evening, and ended Monday morning. Kristina, meanwhile, enjoyed the freedom this offered her to date and be with her friends. I discovered later that she was also busy applying for various forms of public assistance, claiming to have been abandoned by Kaelyn's father.

In late 1992, Kristina began insisting on more child support, and that I spend less time with Kaelyn. Finally, in January of 1993, she told me that she would be married some day, and that Kaelyn was going with her, and she didn't want me to have a relationship with her any more. And when she finally insisted on changing Kaelyn's living arrangements against my wishes, I realized that there would no longer be a chance of my participating in raising my daughter by

mutual agreement. I called an attorney that evening and started custody proceedings.

The judge ordered that a brief psychological evaluation be done to determine Kaelyn's present status. The psychologist reported to the court, that around her father, Kaelyn was a confident, intelligent, happy, well-adjusted little girl. In contrast, around her mother, Kaelyn was clearly more anxious and nervous. The psychologist suggested that Kaelyn's behavior might indicate bonding problems with her mother, but without further study, she would conclude "conservatively" that Kaelyn was experiencing separation anxiety from her mother, and recommended that Kaelyn be temporarily placed primarily with her mother. The judge accepted the recommendation, and entered temporary orders which were essentially the opposite of Kaelyn's previous residential circumstances. This was a crushing conclusion; Kaelyn and I were punished for our rapport.

In February, we requested and the judge ordered a full custody-oriented psychological evaluation of each of us and Kaelyn. This was a frightening and anxious event for me, since I knew how critical these professionals' opinions were for my Daughter — I was out of control of my daughter's future and she needed for me to succeed.

In March, Kristina accused me of molesting Kaelyn. This began a series of investigations by the Fort Collins Police Department, the Department of Social Services, doctors specializing in abuse, and including the evaluation already begun. Kristina played this card as an offensive weapon, not certain of her ability to convince the evaluators of her abilities to parent. Fortunately, Kristina played that card too early, since all the agencies involved had plenty of time to investigate as thoroughly as they felt necessary.

By mid-June, all the agencies were finished and satisfied. Social Services and the Fort Collins Police went beyond the normal investigation, but found no evidence of abuse, and expressed skepticism of Kristina's responses and behaviors during the investigation. These evaluators also found problems in Kaelyn's relationship with her mother, and with Kristina's ability or willingness to nurture. They also questioned Kristina's ability to practice good judgment with respect to Kaelyn's interests. In contrast, they were very complimentary of my parenting skills, and of my healthy relationship with Kaelyn.

The evaluators recommended that we share joint legal custody, and that I have primary physical custody, leaving Kristina with visitation and child support. That report was made available June 14.

Within days, Kristina's future husband, Joel, had acquired a pickup truck and a camper-trailer. The main tools of the abduction were now in place. Their wedding was planned for July 7, and the final custody orders hearing was scheduled for August 11.

June 23, I arrived at Kristina's apartment to pick up Kaelyn. Joel and Kristina were there. After Kaelyn reached for me and gave me a hug, she very cheerfully voiced a disgusting little phrase about her "private parts". Accusations flew there on the porch. I left. Kaelyn repeated the same phrase all the way home. Shocked and terrified about what must have been happening to her, I called a child psychologist, and my attorney. I insisted that my attorney schedule an emergency hearing so the judge could be made aware of what was going on.

June 28, Kaelyn was with her mother, and I and my attorney appeared for the emergency hearing; Kristina was not present, only her attorney. The judge discussed the situation with the attorneys and assigned a GAL, an attorney for Kaelyn. June 29, the GAL interviewed as many people as she could find regarding this phrase and the accusations. Kristina was "unavailable". June 30, my attorney and I returned for a second emergency hearing. Again, only

Kristina's attorney was present. The GAL recommended to the court that Kaelyn should have an additional evaluation to determine the significance and source of her statement, but that no changes should be made in Kaelyn's residential status. Social Services testified in my favor, and the evaluators strongly urged the court to immediately take Kaelyn out of her mother's care and put her into mine. The judge cautiously took the recommendation of the GAL. It was already too late.

I learned later that Kristina and Joel had convinced their pastor to marry them in an emergency ceremony, in his living-room, just after mid-night, the morning of June 30. They left there with a packed truck, the camper-trailer, and my daughter, to Texas for a few days, and then directly on to Mexico.

I arrived the evening of the 30th to pick up Kaelyn as scheduled. No one was home. Within days it was clear that they were gone. The feelings of terror, helplessness, emptiness, and most of all, the feeling of having failed my child, were disabling. I hired an investigator, but did not know where else to turn. At the August 11 hearing, the evaluators changed their recommendation based on Kristina's "poor parental judgment", and the court awarded me sole legal custody. That order stands today.

Finally in September, the Larimer County Sheriff's Department, and the Larimer County District Attorney decided that a crime had been committed, and filed warrants for Joel and Kristina. The FBI filed their warrants shortly after. I found the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at about the same time, and through them, registered my case with a number of non-profit missing children organizations.

It took me a full year to really become proficient at working with investigators. The FBI and Sheriff had invested very little effort in my case during that time, despite my frustrated urging. Finally, at the end of the first year, my private investigation produced a lead that took us directly to the town, in the middle of Mexico, where they had been living for that previous twelve months ...one month after they had moved.

The investigation that had lead me to that town, also produced overwhelming evidence that both Joel's and Kristina's parents were coconspirators in the abduction and concealment of Kaelyn. Kristina had written a letter to her family, about a year after she left, newly accused me of everything she could think of, including domestic violence, homosexuality, raping her, and again of molesting Kaelyn. This became the families' rationale for hiding them even though most of these accusations had never been heard before. Now that the results of the covert investigation were obsolete, I turned them toward an overt offensive effort, by bringing a civil suit against all four parents. Kristina's parents fought mostly by committing perjury, and eventually fled the state. Approximately nine months from the beginning of the suit, the judge awarded me \$743,000 in damages for their participation in the conspiracy. My investigators have been unable to locate them, and I suspect they have also gone to Mexico. I am still fighting the civil court battle with Joel's parents, now in Federal Bankruptcy Court.

The pursuit continues, especially as I learn stories of Kristina's family's involvement in the occult, and witchcraft. I have now spent over \$110,000 of my money, my family's money, and civil judgment proceeds. This is far beyond any of my expectations of the potential costs. We are not a wealthy family; I am seriously in debt, and my parents' retirement has been crippled.

My daughters case is nearly a model worst-case scenario. Kaelyn was taken when she was young, her mother levied all the worst accusations, it has gone beyond two years, it is an international case, local law enforcement has openly expressed ignorant

reluctance to aggressively pursue such "civil" matters, there are family members involved in support of the abduction, there are malicious letters left behind without accusers to question, and potential deficiencies were identified in Kaelyn's mother's parenting, increasing the risks to Kaelyn. The only elements not present, are that I had a custody order in force when Kaelyn was taken, and that there is no significant evidence that this is a highly organized "underground" case.

The Future

As I have said before, ignorance is one of the most significant obstacles to the resolution of these cases. However, there are more talk shows and crime shows highlighting the magnitude and the character of family abductions. There are also cable shows, and an increasing number of yearly events bringing this problem to light. The old milk carton campaign, and the current ADVO programs have been significantly successful. These are all steps in the right direction, and all of these programs are contributing to gains in child recoveries. But much, much more public understanding and involvement is needed. At 160,000 new cases a year, these public oriented programs are not yet successful enough.

Other than harsh legal consequences, the best deterrent is for a potential abductor to believe they won't get away with it. Let's deter future abductions by sending our children home now.

The Point

For the majority of family abductions, the abductors act out of such narcissistic love-of-self, that they do this at the clear expense of their own children. But the suffering extends to the parent left behind, that parent's family, and in most cases, even to their own family through their forced maintenance of this vindictive crime.

Every child deserves to have their childhood, to be loved, to be guided, to be challenged, to be protected, to learn, and to play. Fugitive-children are denied this opportunity while their parent's selfish agenda runs. If you have ever learned from a child how to newly see the world, you cannot tolerate any one child to have their childhood stolen this way.

Children will respond to their parents as their primary role models. And they will grow up to offer a contribution or burden to their community based on their parents' involvement and modeling. I recognize and desire to fulfill my responsibility to raise my daughter to healthy, responsible adulthood.

I am the father of a young girl. Seeing her innocent trust in me, her dependence on me, and her desire to make me proud of her, is a privilege beyond description. Her view of me, and my desire to guide her well, with love and intelligence, has even broadened my view of and relationship with God. I must answer this calling — and I must honor my daughter and her trust and innocence — by making every effort to bring her home to safety and provide her with the healthiest and securest childhood possible.

The most stunning aspect of the attitudes of the conspirators that are hiding my daughter, is that they treat her like a permanent child and possession. My objective as a parent is not to have a child, but to raise a successful adult through her childhood. Do the conspirators not realize that my intelligent little girl will some day grow up to be — if allowed — an insightful young woman? Do they not realize, that no matter how many people they convince of their lies along the way, that some day my daughter will be able to know the truth about what they did and why? Some day they will answer to her! They do not just put their own narcissistic agenda before her interests, they reject the notion of her individuality and future adulthood — they reject her very humanity. These are the people who possess and presume to parent my daughter. I am her father and her Daddy, and this infuriates me.

My daughter deserves to grow up experiencing and knowing that she is special and that she is loved, and I am committed to honoring her in this way. If my daughter is not experiencing that she is loved, as she re-named, moved, restricted, lied to, confused, and hidden, she will eventually know that her Daddy loved her while he devoted himself to doing everything he could to bring her back to safety and security. I will be able to answer the question, "Why didn't you come to get me, Daddy?" because some day I will come to get her!



DEDICATION

This annual report is dedicated to the recovery of Kaelyn Handsel and all missing children.

Kaelyn Handsel

Date of Birth: May 14, 1991

Date Missing: June 30, 1993

Missing From: Fort Collins, Colorado



If you have information on this or any other missing child, please notify your local law enforcement agency or the Colorado Bureau of Investigation at (303) 239-4251.



If you have information on these or any other missing child, please notify your local law enforcement agency or the Colorado Bureau of Investigation at (303) 239-4222

