

General Order 04-01
Departmental Operations Policies and Procedures: Amber Alert
Effective Date: April, 2004 Date Reviewed: December 17, 2008 Next Review: December, 2011

I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to provide officers with guidelines to respond to the Amber Alert activation.

II. POLICY

Amber alert may only be activated by a Michigan Law Enforcement Agency which is actively investigating a case where a child less than 17 years of age, is a victim of abduction, or is missing and considered at imminent risk of great bodily harm or death. Imminent risk of great bodily harm or death can only be determined by a trained investigating officer(s) during the course of the preliminary investigation into the missing child incident.

A child is considered to be at imminent risk of great bodily harm or death if:

- * The child suffers from a severe mental or physical disability that greatly impairs the child's ability to care for her/himself.
- * The child is a victim of stranger or acquaintance kidnaping.

(MCL 750.349) Stranger kidnaping is defined as a child being taken against her/his will by a stranger. Acquaintance kidnaping is defined as a child being taken against her/his will by an acquaintance of the child or the child's family.

- * The child is in the company of a person who has a confirmed criminal history of child abuse/neglect, sexual assault, domestic assault, or a crime involving the victimization of children, or has made statements of intent to harm the missing child, or is suicidal.
- * The child has been abducted by a non-custodial parent whose parental rights have been terminated by a court.

Amber Alert cannot be activated for a runaway child or a child who is a victim of a parental abduction involved in a civil dispute.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Investigation.

1. Interview person(s) who made the initial report.
2. Verify child is missing.
3. Verify child's custody.
4. Identify circumstances of child's disappearance.

5. Determine when, where, and who last saw the missing child.
6. Interview person(s) who last had contact with the missing child.
7. Identify the child's zone of safety for her or his age and development stage.
8. Make an initial determination of the type of incident.
9. Obtain a detailed description of the missing child, abductor/suspect, and any suspicious vehicle used.
10. Treat the area as a crime scene.

B. Dissemination of Amber Alerts.

1. Relay descriptive information including the request for activation of Amber Alert to the Michigan State Police LEIN operator.
2. Amber Alerts should be disseminated in the geographic region where the activating agency is located, and the geographic region that borders that activating agency.
3. Amber Alerts requested from a jurisdiction outside of Michigan shall comply with Michigan's Amber Alert protocol. These requests should be directed to the Michigan State Police, East Lansing Operations (MSP ELOP) through an NLETS out of state message. All formal requests to activate Amber Alerts in Michigan from an outside jurisdiction shall adhere to policy established by the Michigan State Police.
 - a. Jurisdictions outside of Michigan requesting to activate Amber Alert activation's in Michigan must have significant and reliable information that the missing child is in a specific geographic region of Michigan. This information must be developed through diligent law enforcement investigation.
 - b. The requesting outside jurisdiction should have significant information indicating that activating Amber Alert in Michigan will aid in the recovery of the missing child.
4. A request for an Amber Alert outside of Michigan should be directed to the Michigan State Police, East Lansing Operations (ELOP) through an appropriate LEIN message. All formal requests to activate Amber Alert in another state should adhere to the policy established by the Michigan State Police.
 - a. The request should comply with Michigan's Amber Alert protocol.

- b. The request should indicate the State and geographic region within that State where the alert should be activated.
- c. The determination to activate another State's Amber Alert system must have been developed through diligent law enforcement investigation.
- d. The requesting agency should have significant information indicating that activating Amber Alert in a state other than Michigan will aid in the recovery of the missing child.