



radKIDS ON...

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS MISSING

It is every parent's worst nightmare-to find your child is missing. We have all had those moments when we turned to find ourselves separated from our children. In those brief moments between the *Where are they?* Panic, and the *Thank God, there they are* relief lies our deepest fear. The longer the gap between the two thoughts, the deeper our terror. What do you do if the space between those moments stretches? GET HELP... FAST!

AT HOME

If your child is missing at home search the house, phone neighbors, and if you are still not able to locate your child call the police immediately to report a missing child. There is no waiting period.

OUT-AND-ABOUT

Most stores now have emergency procedures that are followed when a parent reports a lost child. If you get separated from your child and are unable to immediately locate him/her go straight for help at the front of the store. It is helpful if you carry a current photo in your wallet. *Do not delay*, or wait in line. Time is critical- let it be known you are a parent and your child is lost. They should seal the doors at that time to be certain no one leaves with your child. Then all employees search the store for your child combing bathrooms, aisles, stockrooms, etc. until the child is located.

MAKE A PLAN NOW

You may want to create an emergency packet with any information that would assist you should you find your child missing. In it might include the following

- A good, clear current photo of your child (preferably taken every 6 months).
- Descriptive notes about your child's distinguishing features (birthmarks, scars, braces, any identifying characteristics) with photographs if possible.
- Fingerprints of your child. If you contact your local police department they should be able to assist you in obtaining a set.
- A copy of the guide book published by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention titled "*When Your Child is Missing: A Family Survival Guide*." It spells out exactly what to do and expect in the critical first 48 hours. It is available over the Internet at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=11627> or you can order a copy to be mailed though Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse/NCJRS, P.O. Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000.

Your ability to not panic, focus, and execute your plan may make all the difference.

radKIDS®

9 New Venture Drive
Unit #4
S. Dennis, MA 02660
(508) 760-2080
www.radkids.org
radkids@radkids.org