



WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

NORTH WEST LEEDS

Tel : 0845 6060606

MISSING PERSONS

Frequently asked questions and links

How long should I wait before reporting someone missing ?

If you are worried about someone you believe to be missing, call the police immediately. You do not have to wait 24hrs to report them missing.

Is there an age limit on reporting someone missing ?

No. Anyone of any age can be reported missing to the police.

How do I report someone missing to West Yorkshire Police ?

Call 0845 6060606 and make a report of a missing person to the call taker.

What will the police do if I report someone as missing ?

Firstly you should confirm to yourself that they are actually missing, by physically searching the address where they were last seen, remembering that small children can hide in some surprisingly small spaces. Speak with other family members and friends, neighbours etc. When you are certain that the individual is "missing", then call the police.

The police will then take a number of details of the missing person over the telephone.

The police will then despatch a police officer to attend your address, to conduct local searches (including a thorough search of the address the person was last known to be), and to take a full detailed missing from home report, including obtaining items such as a photograph.

The police may also seek to remove items from the address which may be further investigated, such items include computers, diaries, mobile phones, and identification sources, such as fingerprints and DNA sources.

The police officer will then make an informed risk assessment of the circumstances of the individual's disappearance from the information provided, which will be verified by the officer's supervisor, and subsequently all actions to investigate the report will be in accordance with this risk assessment. This can vary from local enquiries with family, friends, workmates and neighbours, to investigations which require the assistance of specialist search teams and the use of the force helicopter.

Overseas investigations involving the use of Interpol will need to show an immediate concern/ risk to the individual or to the general public.

My partner has abducted our child and left the country without my knowledge or consent. What can I do ?

This is a criminal offence and should be reported immediately to the police. Additionally, it may also be dealt with by civil law, and you should seek the advice of a family law solicitor to ensure that proceedings can be started in the High Court to return your child to the UK.

Do you need authority to publicise a missing person ?

Once an individual has been reported missing to the police, we will seek to use a number of publicity opportunities to locate the individual. Whilst we will endeavour to obtain authority from the informant or next of kin of the missing person for such publicity, we retain the right to continue to publicise the missing person in an attempt to establish their well being or otherwise, even when such authority is not forthcoming. Slightly different rules apply to individuals missing from "care" establishments.

I have been reported as a missing person but I do not want anyone to know where I am. What can I do ?

Firstly you should make contact with your local police, regardless of whether that is the same police force that you were reported to or not.

You should attend a local police station with proof of your identity. The police will want to confirm that you are shown as missing, and to ensure that you have not been removed from your family and friends under duress etc.

Once satisfied that you are who you claim to be, and that you are safe and well, and not subject to any orders in relation to care or the Mental Health Act, you will be free to carry on as normal.

The police will notify the person who reported you missing, that you have been located safe and well. Your location/ address/ telephone number etc. **WILL NOT** be divulged to the informant. This will ease their concerns without identifying where you are – it is then up to you if and when you then contact them.

This procedure is only for over 18's, who are not part of the care system. The police have a statutory obligation to return under 18's, and those accommodated by order in the mental health system, to the location they are missing from, if it is safe to do so. If not, then to the care of social services emergency departments.

What do I do if I have lost contact with a family member ?

If you believe that the individual is at risk due to being missing, report them to your local police.

However, if you are just trying to re-establish contact with an individual/ family member, it is not within the police's remit to conduct "family tracing" enquiries. There are a number of specialist tracing services available via their Internet sites. You could also make enquiries at your local library by viewing the voters register, or by obtaining a copy of the UK wide voters registration information CD Rom.

I am trying to trace my family tree, can the police help ?

No, the police cannot help with this. There are a number of organisations who may be able to assist your enquiries. One line of enquiry may be through the "National Archives" - www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

2. LINKS:

POLICE ORGANISATION:

National Police Improvements Agency (Missing Person Bureau)
www.missingpersons.police.uk



Missing Kids Website
www.missingkids.co.uk

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's library of resources contains all their publications and other resource materials

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre
www.ceop.gov.uk



**Missing
Children
Europe**

The European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children representing 21 NGOs active in the combat against the disappearance and sexual exploitation of children, working in 15 countries of the European Union.

UK CHARITIES



The only national police charity providing support to any child up to 16 years of age who has been a victim of, or traumatised by any criminal offence committed in the UK.



PACT develop practical solutions for the protection of children nationally and internationally and raise awareness and understanding of the problem of missing and abducted children. They also provide on-line advice and support to victims and their families, working with partners both in and outside government to bring these children home. PACT also also a partner of the UK Missing Kids Website.



Previously known as NCH, Action for Children is committed to helping the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK break through injustice, deprivation and inequality, so they can achieve their full potential.



Working with families and children in areas such as fostering, adoption, disability and coping with domestic violence. Their campaign areas are child poverty, child and family in the asylum system, children in trouble, sexual exploitation, child trafficking, mental health and education.



A service provided by the NSPCC. Confidential counselling service on a number of issues such as bullying or abuse which is provided for children of all ages who believed that no one else cared for them.



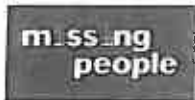
Providing help and support to those forgotten children who are unable to find help anywhere else. They have a national network of projects and are involved in pioneering research, influential campaigning and provided the UK's first independent national inquiry into childhood.



A leading children's rights organisation campaigning against the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the UK and on its international aspects. In particular, focusing on the protection of trafficked children and children exploited in tourism and the prevention of such crimes



Their aim is to prevent bullying of children and child abuse and to provide support to those affected children. They are committed to keeping children safe from harm. Kidscape work with children under 16 years old, their parents/carers and those working with them.



Provide support to young runaways as well as missing people and their families. They also operate the Runaway Helpline for anyone under 18 years old where messages can be passed to the child's family where they may not want to speak to them directly, a similar service for adults, the Message Home helpline for anyone over 18 years old and also provide publicity to assisting in finding missing persons.



Supporting families and children and campaigning for an end to child cruelty through their full stop campaign. They aim to give children the help, support and the environment they need to stay safe from cruelty and to be seen as someone children and young people can turn to.