

The FBI's Child ID App

Putting Safety in Your Hands

A child goes missing every 40 seconds in America. Many never return home.

The FBI's new Child ID App can help.

Simply download the free FBI mobile application from the App Store on iTunes, add the latest photos of your child, enter key information about him or her, and update it regularly.

In the unlikely event that your child goes missing, you can quickly e-mail the photos and information to authorities. The app also includes safety advice and checklists for parents. And please be assured, no information about you or your child will be collected or stored by the FBI or iTunes.

Put your child's safety in your own hands. Download the FBI's Child ID App today.



FBI Child Identification Form

Name

First Name:

Last Name:

Middle:

Nickname:

Address

Street:

Apt #:

City:

State:

Zip:

Home Phone:

Alt Phone:

Date of Birth:

Gender:

Ethnicity:

Height:

Weight:

Haircolor:

Eyecolor:

Pierced Ears:

Identifying Characteristics

Front

1:

2:

3:

4:

5:

Back

1:

2:

3:

4:

5:

Additional Comments



The image shows a smartphone screen displaying a 'Child Info' form. The status bar at the top shows 'Carrier', signal strength, '8:38 AM', and battery level. The form has a 'Cancel' button on the left and a 'Save' button on the right. A photo of a young boy in an orange shirt is shown in a rounded square frame. To the right of the photo are two buttons: 'New Photo' (blue) and 'Send' (red). Below the photo are several text input fields: 'First Name' (Johnie), 'Last Name' (Doe), 'Middle' (J), and 'Nicknames' (Jd, John). Below these is an 'Address' section with a 'Street' field containing '111 Some St.'.

Safety Tips

The following tips will help keep your children safe:

1. Make sure that your child knows his/her full name, your full name, your address, and your telephone number(s), including area code(s). Make sure your child knows how to use a telephone and how to call 911.
2. Do not leave your young children home alone. If you must leave your teenage children at home by themselves, tell them not to answer the door. If they answer the telephone, they should not mention that they are alone but should say that you will be back shortly.
3. Tell your children to move away from cars that pull up beside them if they do not know the driver, even if the driver claims to know you. If your child is being followed, they should know to run home or go to a safe house or the nearest public place.
4. Teach your children not to play in isolated areas and not to take shortcuts through empty parks, fields, or alleys.
5. Let your children know that they should not accept items from strangers or others without your express permission.
6. Tell your children that they may contact you at any time to pick them up and where to go if you are not available. Point out which houses in your neighborhood they may visit if they are in trouble.
7. Never leave your child alone in a public place, stroller, or car, even for brief periods of time.
8. Accompany your young children to the bathroom in public places.
9. Go with your children during all door-to-door activities.
10. Maintain up-to-date identification information on your children at all times, including medical and dental records, Social Security numbers, photographs, etc. Fingerprints and DNA samples also can be collected and stored in your home through the National Child Identification Program Kit (<http://www.childidprogram.com/the-id-kit>), which is provided by the American Football Coaches Association in partnership with the FBI.

How to Use the FBI Child ID App

To add a child to the app:

1. Open the app and click the plus sign in the upper right corner of the app homepage.
2. To add a picture (optional), click the blue "New Photo" button. This will take you to your phone's camera (right now, this is the only way to add a photo to the app). Take a picture of your child, and click "Use" to save. You can also click "Retake" to take another photo.
3. To add additional information about your child, scroll down the page and use your phone's keypad. Press "Save" in the upper right corner of the app to store the information. Hit "Cancel" to start over and return to the app homepage.
4. You can add as many children as you want in the app. Each child's name and picture (or generic silhouette) will appear on the left of the app homepage. If you add several children, you will need to scroll down the screen to see the additional entries.
5. To edit information about your child, click your child's photo (or generic silhouette) on the app homepage, edit the information, and hit "Save."
6. To remove a child from the app, click the "Delete" button in the upper left corner of the app. You will see a red minus sign to the left of each entry. Click the minus sign next to the child you wish to remove and then hit the red "Delete" button to the right. Hit "Done" to return to the normal view.

To send your child's information to law enforcement authorities, to yourself for archival purposes, or to other groups or individuals:

1. Click your child's photo (or generic silhouette) on the app homepage.
2. Click the red "Send" button.
3. Type in the e-mail address where you wish to send the information in the "To" field at the top of the page.
4. Hit "Send" in the upper right corner of the page.
5. You can cancel the e-mail by clicking the "Cancel" button in the upper left corner of the screen. You can then choose to save or delete the draft e-mail.

Note: To call your local 911 operator, use the "Emergency" tab at the bottom of the app homepage.

First 24 Hours

The first 48 hours following the disappearance of a child are the most crucial to the possibility of a successful recovery. Use the following checklist during the first 24 hours to help increase your chances of locating your child. If more time than this has passed, still ensure that these items are addressed as quickly as possible.

1. IMMEDIATELY call 911 or the nearest law enforcement agency. If you do not know the nearest local law enforcement agency, a 911 operator can direct you.
2. Once in contact with investigators, ask to have your missing child put in the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Missing Persons file. There is no waiting period.
3. Request that the FBI be involved in the search for your child.
4. Gather and provide as much information as you can about your child to help investigators. Send any information from the FBI Child ID App. Provide a description of what your child was wearing, any personal items he or she may have possessed at the time of disappearance, and any mannerisms that may help locate your child. If available, provide further identifying information, such as your child's Social Security number, additional pictures, DNA samples, and fingerprints. Give law enforcement all the facts and circumstances related to the disappearance of your child, including what search efforts have already been made.
5. Request that law enforcement put out a BOLO (Be On the Look Out) bulletin for your child.
6. Ask your local law enforcement agency to organize a search for your child. Request tracking or trailing dogs (preferably bloodhounds) in the search effort.
7. Ask the law enforcement agency about the AMBER Alert Program (www.amberalert.gov), which activates an urgent bulletin in the most serious child abduction cases.
8. Limit access to your home until law enforcement has collected possible evidence. Do not touch or remove items from your child's room or your home during this time.
9. Request the name, telephone number, and any other pertinent contact information for the law enforcement investigator assigned to your case. Keep this information on your mobile phone and in a convenient place near your home phone.

First 24 Hours

10. Make lists of friends, acquaintances, and anyone else who might have information or clues as to the whereabouts of your child. Try to include telephone numbers and addresses when available. Inform law enforcement of individuals who recently moved in or out of the neighborhood, anyone whose interest in or involvement with your family has changed in recent months, and anyone who appeared to be overly interested in your child. Also, list your child's online interests, including favorite websites and social networking sites (Facebook, MySpace, etc.) as well as friends on these sites.
11. Contact the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) at 1-800-843-5678 (800-THE-LOST) for assistance. NCMEC, which partners with the FBI to help find missing children, may assign a case manager. NCMEC can provide investigators with a copy of its publication, "Missing and Abducted Children: A Law Enforcement Guide to Case Investigation and Program Management."
12. Look up the telephone number of your state's missing children's clearinghouse. Call them and find out what resources they may provide.
13. Request that local law enforcement help you contact the media.
14. Designate one person to answer your telephone. Keep a notebook handy so that this person may keep track of relevant names, telephone numbers, dates and times of calls, and other information about each call.
15. Take care of yourself and your family. Force yourself to get rest, eat healthy, and talk to friends.

The Second 24 Hours

In the event that your child is not located in the first 24 hours, the following steps may be taken.

1. Talk with the law enforcement investigator assigned to your case about steps that are being taken to find your child.
2. Expand on your list of friends, acquaintances, extended family members, yard workers, delivery persons, or anyone else who may have seen your child during or following the disappearance/abduction.
3. Look at personal calendars, community event calendars, and newspapers for additional clues as to who may have been in the vicinity and might be the abductor or a possible witness. Give this information to law enforcement. Save copies of your local paper.
4. Expect that you will be asked to take a polygraph test. Volunteer to take one.
5. Work with your NCMEC case manager to identify locations where your child's poster may be distributed or displayed. When a case is media ready, NCMEC sends posters to the geographic area where the child is believed to be located.
6. Work with your law enforcement agency to schedule press releases and media events. You may also wish to ask someone close to you to act as a media spokesperson.
7. Discuss the use of a possible reward with your law enforcement agency.
8. Report any potential extortion attempts to law enforcement.
9. To protect the privacy of your home telephone number, consider having a separate telephone line installed with call forwarding to your existing landline or cell phone. Get caller ID and call waiting. Ask law enforcement to install a phone in your home that can be used to record calls. Keep your cell phone with you at all times.
10. Make a list of things that volunteers may do for you and your family.
11. If you have not done so already, call your child's doctor and dentist to request medical records and x-rays. Give these to law enforcement.
12. Discuss with law enforcement the creation of a website to capture information or leads. Designate a screened and trusted volunteer to manage and monitor this website.
13. Continue to take good care of yourself. Ask others to help take care of your emotional and physical needs during this time. Request that your coworkers and employer do so as well.

Helpful Links

Child Abduction: Resources for Victims and Families

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/childabduction.html>

Amber Alerts

<http://www.amberalert.gov>

FBI 'Be Crime Smart' Website

<http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety>

FBI Crimes Against Children Website

http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/vc_majorthfts/cac

FBI Local Field Offices

<http://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field>

FBI Most Wanted (Fugitives and Missing Kids)

<http://www.fbi.gov/wanted>

FBI Submit a Crime Tip Form

<https://tips.fbi.gov/>

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

<http://www.missingkids.com/>

National Child Identification Program ID Kits

<http://www.childidprogram.com/the-id-kit>