



MIKE DEWINE
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Protecting Ohio's Families

When Someone Is Missing

Project LINK (Linking Individuals Not Known) of the Missing Persons Unit at the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) offers free assistance to those searching for a loved one who has been missing for more than 30 days. (Note: Project LINK can help even if the person has been missing for decades.)

What to do



- File a missing person report with the local police.
- Contact BCI at **855-BCI-OHIO** and be prepared to offer as much information as you can about the missing person so analysts can begin searching.
- Share photos of the missing person with BCI.
- Offer items such as the missing person's toothbrush, razor, hairbrush or article of clothing for use in creating the DNA profile.
- Be prepared to donate a DNA sample (a *swab from your mouth*) if you're biologically related to the missing person.
 - Parents, siblings and offspring are the best candidates for creating a genetic profile that can be used in the search.
 - BCI will provide a free DNA collection kit.

What will happen



- Analysts at BCI will perform online and database searches for the missing person.
- Information and photos of the missing person will be posted on the Ohio Attorney General's Missing Persons Website, www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Ohio-MissingPersons, and other websites devoted to finding missing people.
- Relatives' DNA samples will be processed and added to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) so the DNA can be compared to DNA taken from unidentified human remains.
- If a DNA match is made, law enforcement officers will contact you with information and answer your questions.
- As long as the case is open, the DNA stays in the system and is regularly checked against new DNA entered in the database.

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KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE

Dozens of Ohio children are reported missing to law enforcement any given day. Thankfully, most return to their families quickly and unharmed. Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's office provides these reminders for keeping your children safe:

- Teach your children their full name, address, and telephone number.
- Make sure they know your full name and how to reach you by cell phone or at work.
- Teach them how and when to call 911.
- Make sure your children always have a trusted adult to call if they're scared or have an emergency.
- Instruct them to keep the door locked and not to open it to anyone when they are home alone.
- Discuss how they should answer the telephone when you're away.
- Choose caregivers and babysitters with care. Seek referrals and check references. Drop in unexpectedly to see how things are going. Ask your children about their experiences.
- Make sure your children understand there is safety in numbers. When they are playing or walking to school or elsewhere, have them do so with friends.

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THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MISSING PERSONS UNIT

Attorney General Mike DeWine's office promotes measures to keep kids safe and assists law enforcement and families in missing children cases. Through its Missing Persons Unit, the office:

- Issues Missing Child Alerts
- Works with law enforcement when AMBER Alerts are needed
- Maintains a toll-free hotline, 800-325-5604, with the **Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI)**
- Provides resources to aid in searches at **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons**
- Uses social networking sites, public records, and law enforcement databases to help locate children
- Assists law enforcement and families
- Trains professionals and the public on missing persons issues

IF A LOVED ONE IS MISSING:

- Immediately file a report with law enforcement.
- Limit access to your home until investigators have the opportunity to collect evidence. Do not touch anything in the home.
- Give investigators all requested information, including a complete description, photos, facts related to the disappearance, social media accounts, cell phone number, and any other requested details.
- Be prepared to provide fingerprints, dental records, and DNA to help find your loved one.

For more information on the Missing Persons Unit, please contact Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's office at **www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/MissingPersons** or **800-325-5604**.



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