

Child Abduction Prevention

Categories : [Children and Families](#), [Criminal Justice System](#)

The following information is from [The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#) and the [U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#)

In light of the high profile abductions of several children, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) encourages families not to panic. Instead, parents need to empower themselves with information that can help protect their children.

CHILD ABDUCTION: STATISTICS

- Parental abductions and runaway cases make up the majority of missing children in the United States. In 2022 there were 359,094 NCIC entries for missing children.

SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS:

- Be sure to go over the rules with your children about whose homes they can visit when you're not there and discuss the boundaries of where they can and can't go in the neighborhood.
- Always listen to your children and keep the lines of communication open. Teach your children to get out of dangerous or uncomfortable situations right away, and practice role-playing and basic safety skills with them.
- Teach your children in whose car they may ride. Children should be cautioned never to approach any vehicle, occupied or not, unless accompanied by a parent or trusted adult.
- Make sure children know their names, address, telephone numbers and how to dial 911.
- Choose babysitters with care. Obtain references from family, friends and neighbors.

SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN:

- Always check first with your parents or the person in charge before you go anywhere or do anything.
- Always take a friend when you play or go somewhere.
- Don't be tricked by adults who offer you special treats or gifts or ask you for help.
- Don't be afraid to say no and get away from any situation that makes you feel uncomfortable or confused. Trust your feelings.
- Don't get into a car or go near a car with someone in it unless you are with your parents or a trusted adult.
- Never take a ride from someone without checking first with your parents.
- Never go into a public restroom by yourself.
- Never go alone to the mall, movies, video arcades or parks.
- Stay safe when you're home alone by keeping the door locked. Do not open the door for or talk to anyone who stops by unless the person is a trusted family friend or relative.

INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL ABDUCTION

In situations where parents have not resolved the issue of child custody, and one of the parents has ties to another country, there is the risk that that parent might take the child with them to a foreign country. Parents who are in this situation can find useful information about international parental abduction in [International Parental Child Abduction](#) published by the U.S. Department of State.



For additional more information and resources, please visit www.missingkids.com or call NCMEC's toll-free hotline at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).

TO FIND PROVIDERS IN CONNECTICUT'S COMMUNITY RESOURCES DATABASE:

Search by service name: [Child Identification Programs](#)

SOURCE: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

PREPARED BY: 211/ch

CONTENT LAST REVIEWED: November2025