

SUBJECT: INDIANA SILVER ALERT PROCEDURES

MARCH 2013

PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR AGENCY HEAD AND DISPATCH SUPERVISOR.

INDIANA CODE 10-13-5 MANDATES A SILVER ALERT PROGRAM WITHIN THE STATE OF INDIANA. THE PROCEDURES FOR A SILVER ALERT REQUEST ARE IDENTICAL TO THOSE FOR AN AMBER ALERT, ONLY THE CRITERIA IS DIFFERENT. ONLY THE STATE'S AMBER/ SILVER ALERT CENTER MAY ISSUE A REGIONAL (ONE OR MORE COUNTIES) OR A STATEWIDE (ALL 92 COUNTIES) SILVER ALERT. BROADCASTERS WILL ONLY RESPOND TO SILVER ALERT NOTIFICATION ORIGINATING FROM THE STATE. ALL SILVER ALERTS INVOLVING A VEHICLE WILL GO OUT AS STATEWIDE RATHER THAN A REGIONAL ALERT. IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY THE NAMED SUBJECT OF A STATEWIDE SILVER ALERT WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REFERRED TO BMV FOR A LICENSE COMPETENCY EVALUATION (IF THE SUBJECT IS INDICATED TO BE THE VEHICLE OPERATOR).

IF THE REQUEST FOR A SILVER ALERT IS BASED ON THE PERSON HAVING A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENT, THEN THAT FACT MUST BE VALIDATED BY THE REQUESTING AGENCY. A CREDITABLE MEDICAL AUTHORITY (PHYSICIAN OR MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL WHO HAS REVIEWED OR IS FAMILIAR WITH THE PERSON'S MEDICAL HISTORY) MUST BE CONTACTED TO ATTEST TO THE IMPAIRMENT. THE MEDICAL AUTHORITY NEED NOT PROVIDE WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION, OR REVEAL ANY CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL HISTORY, BUT MUST ATTEST TO THE AGENCY THAT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO THE INDIVIDUAL:

- A. DUE TO MENTAL IMPAIRMENT, THE INDIVIDUAL CANNOT FIND HIS OR HER WAY BACK TO THEIR RESIDENCE WITHOUT ASSISTANCE FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT**
- B. DUE TO PHYSICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENT, OR LACK OF MEDICATION, THIS INDIVIDUAL IF DRIVING COULD BE A DANGER TO THEMSELVES OR OTHERS.**
- C. DUE TO PHYSICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENT, OR LACK OF MEDICATION, THIS INDIVIDUAL COULD BE A DANGER TO THEMSELVES OR OTHERS.**

THE AGENCY MUST LIST THE NAME AND PHONE NUMBER OF THE MEDICAL AUTHORITY VALIDATING THE IMPAIRMENT, IN THE FIELDS INDICATED ON THE SILVER ALERT REQUEST FORM. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT AGENCIES MAKE A RECORD OF THE CONVERSATION WITH THE MEDICAL AUTHORITY, OR ENSURE THE DISCUSSION OCCURS ON A RECORDED LINE (THIS IS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE AGENCY IN CASE CIVIL ACTIONS ARISE RELATING TO THE CASE). An "AGENCY CHECKLIST FOR SILVER ALERT REQUEST" HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO ASSIST AGENCIES IN REQUESTING SILVER ALERTS.

THE CHECK LIST IS PROVIDED TO ALL AGENCIES WHEN THEY CALL TO REQUEST A SILVER ALERT.

TO REQUEST A SILVER ALERT YOU WILL CALL THE INDIANA AMBER AND SILVER ALERT CENTER AT: 317-234-4636. THE OPERATOR WILL TAKE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER AND YOU WILL RECEIVE A CALL FROM THE STATE'S ALERT COORDINATOR. THE COORDINATOR WILL GO OVER THE CASE WITH YOU AND ADVISE IF IT MEETS THE SILVER CRITERIA. YOU MAY THEN CHOOSE TO SUBMIT A FORMAL REQUEST, RESULTING IN EITHER APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THAT REQUEST (YOU WILL BE SENT THE REQUEST FORM BY FAX OR EMAIL).

YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED IF THE REQUEST IS APPROVED, OR DISAPPROVED

IF A REQUEST IS DISAPPROVED BY THE STATE BECAUSE IT DOES NOT MEET THE SILVER CRITERIA, AN AGENCY MAY STILL CONTACT THEIR LOCAL MEDIA AND REQUEST THAT THE MISSING PERSON INFORMATION BE BROADCAST LOCALLY.

AGENCIES MAY ALSO USE A CHILD IS MISSING (ACIM) PROGRAM (<http://achildismissing.org>) AS A MEANS OF NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC OF AN ENDANGERED MISSING ADULT OR A MISSING CHILD. THIS NON-PROFIT PROGRAM USES REVERSE 911 TECHNOLOGIES TO ALERT INDIVIDUALS WITHIN A DEFINED AREA, OF A MISSING CHILD OR MISSING ENDANGERED ADULT.

CONTACT ACIIM BY CALLING TEL. 888-875-2246.

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBES HOW SILVER ALERTS DIFFER FROM AMBER ALERTS:

- 1. SILVER ALERTS DO NOT GO OUT OVER THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS), AND WILL NOT BE TRANSMITTED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.**
- 2. BROADCASTERS (RADIO AND TV) WILL ANNOUNCE SILVER ALERTS DURING REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWS SHOWS.**
- 3. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER DISPLAYED FOR THE SILVER ALERT TIP LINE WILL BE THE TELEPHONE NUMBER PROVIDED BY THE AGENCY.**
- 4. INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WILL NOT ACTIVATE DIGITAL MESSAGE BOARDS FOR SILVER ALERTS.**

CRITERIA FOR SILVER ALERTS:

- 1. THE PERSON MUST BE EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OLD OR OLDER.**
- 2. THE PERSON MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- A. MISSING ENDANGERED ADULT, I.C. 12-7-2-131.3; OR**
- B. HIGH RISK MISSING PERSON, I.C. 5-2-17-1.**

3. A REQUEST MUST BE RECOMMENDED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OF JURISDICTION AND MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME OF THE DISAPPEARANCE CONSIDERING OVERALL FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING EACH INDIVIDUAL DISAPPEARANCE, TO ENSURE THAT THE ALERTS ISSUED ARE TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE. THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, THROUGH ITS OWN INVESTIGATION MUST:

- A. VERIFY THE DISAPPEARANCE AND ELIMINATE ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATIONS FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE;**
- B. VALIDATE THE MENTAL IMPAIRMENT THROUGH A CREDIBLE MEDICAL AUTHORITY; AND**
- C. ENTER THE MISSING ENDANGERED ADULT, AND VEHICLE INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE), INTO THE NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER (NCIC) DATABASE AS AN ENDANGERED MISSING PERSON.**

4. SUFFICIENT INFORMATION MUST BE AVAILABLE TO DISSEMINATE TO THE PUBLIC THAT COULD ASSIST IN LOCATING THE MISSING ENDANGERED ADULT.

- A. FOR A STATEWIDE ALERT, A VEHICLE MUST BE INVOLVED. A STATEWIDE ALERT MAY ALSO BE ISSUED IF OTHER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT, SUCH AS ABDUCTION.**
- B. IF A VEHICLE WAS NOT INVOLVED, OR IF IT IS OTHERWISE APPROPRIATE, A REGIONAL ALERT WILL BE INITIATED AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IS ENCOURAGED TO UTILIZE THE A CHILD IS MISSING (ACIM) PROGRAM. THE SIZE AND COVERAGE AREA OF THE REGIONAL ALERT MAY BE BASED ON THE SPECIFIC FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE PERSON'S DISAPPEARANCE.**

AGENCIES ARE REMINDED THAT ALERTS (AMBER OR SILVER) ARE NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR NORMAL INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES. THEY ARE INTENDED TO SUPPLEMENT AN AGENCY'S INVESTIGATION BY GETTING THE PUBLIC INVOLVED TO DEVELOP LEADS. WE MUST ENSURE ALERTS DO NOT OCCUR SO OFTEN THAT THE PUBLIC BEGINS TO IGNORE THEM. THIS IS WHY THE STATE'S AMBER /SILVER ALERT CENTER ENSURES EVERY REQUEST MEETS THE STATE'S ALERT CRITERIA. AGENCIES ARE REMINDED THAT THE PREVISIONS ON INDIANA CODE REQUIRE THAT A LAW ENFORCEMENT

AGENCY TAKING A MISSING PERSON REPORT MUST CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION AND MUST MAKE AN ENTRY INTO IDACS.

ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ABOVE INFORMATION S SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE AMBER / SILVER ALERT CENTER AT 317-234-4636 OR CHECK THE STATE SILVER ALERT WEB SITE: silveralert@in.gov

AUTHORITY:

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