

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 19-17

Date: 06/25/19

## AMBER ALERTS

This FYI is to update the information listed on previous FYI 02-40. The California Highway Patrol is the lead agency for the statewide Amber Alert Program. To initiate an Amber Alert the following guidelines apply:

- 1. There must be a confirmed child abduction. This confirmation is made by a law enforcement agency after a “Missing Person's Report” has been filed. The law enforcement agency will contact the California Highway Patrol.**
- 2. The child must be 17 years of age or younger, or developmentally delayed.**
- 3. The child must be in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury. An Amber Alert should not be used for runaways or parental abductions, unless the specific circumstance is life-threatening to the child.**

If a child has been abducted and the Children's Social Worker (CSW) or the Supervising Children's Social Worker (SCSW) feels that the child qualifies for an Amber Alert, the following actions must occur immediately:

- Report the abduction and request that a Child Abduction Report be taken at the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over: 1) where the DCFS office is located, or 2) where the child abduction occurred, or 3) where the child is found. There must be sufficient descriptive information regarding the child, abductor, and/or vehicle to believe that an immediate broadcast will help locate the child.

If the CSW and/or SCSW need assistance making a report with law enforcement, they can contact County Counsel, Alyssa Skolnick, at (323) 547-4349 or askolnick @counsel.lacounty.gov for assistance.

Additionally, the caregiver should go to the law enforcement station and file a Missing Person's Report.

- The CSW shall also contact the Child Abduction Unit at (323) 881-1303, during normal business hours to report the abduction. Whether a case meets criteria for an Amber Alert or not, please refer to Policy [1200-501-20 Child Abduction and Recovery](#) for full policy procedures on Child Abduction Cases.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

[Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov)

*(right click to open footer section and access link)*