

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 21-03

Date: 02/25/21

ICAN CHILD ABDUCTION TASK FORCE

This is to remind staff of the existence of the Inter Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) Child Abduction Task Force. This release supersedes and cancels FYI # 02-42.

The Task Force is composed of members of law enforcement, District Attorney, City Attorney, FBI, County Counsel, LACOE, service providers, and DCFS.

The goal of the Task Force is to provide support and resources to social workers handling a child abduction case. Cases are round tabled and members of the task force provide input and suggestions to help guide the worker.

Social workers with cases that have been determined to be eligible for child abduction services may request to present their case at the Task Force. The Task Force meets the third Wednesday of every month from 12:30-2:00pm. Social workers may present via phone or video conference. To request to present your case please contact Child_Abduction_Unit@dcfs.lacounty.gov:

An abduction is any act of concealment of a child/youth from the juvenile court or the DCFS CSW, especially for the purpose of preventing the child/youth's detention, by a parent, legal guardian, relative, or non-related individual. This includes a child who is under a home of parent order. A child/youth who is either under a home of parent order or who is suitably placed with a caregiver will also be considered abducted when both:

- A parent moves out and fails to notify DCFS, and
- DCFS cannot locate the parent/caregiver and the child.

PROCEDURE

1. Once it has been determined that a [child abduction](#) has occurred, immediately notify the Child Protection Hotline (CPH), SCSW, ARA, and RA.
2. Immediately, and no later than one (1) business day from the date that an abduction occurred:
 - a. Contact the DCFS Child Abduction Liaison at (323) 881-1303 or email the Child Abduction Unit inbox at Child_Abduction_Unit@dcfs.lacounty.gov.

The Child Abduction Application is now live. To access the program please add this information to your web browser: <https://mylakids.dcfslacounty.gov/child-abduction/>. The Child Abduction training is now available on the Learning Net/Saba. Course code is 00456856. This is available to DCFS employees only.



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

Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov

(right click to open footer section and access link)

DCFS CONTACTS

During business hours: (8:00 am to 4:30 pm) please call (323) 881-1303 and request to speak with a Child Abduction liaison or Child Abduction supervisor.

During non-business hours after 4:30 pm please contact the DCFS Child Protection Hotline (CPH): 1 (800) 540-4000

IDC will:

1. Provide instructions to the social worker to file all relevant reports and or direct the social worker to access the Child Abduction application;
2. Assist the social worker in cases where law enforcement has refused to file a Child Abduction and Missing Person's report;
3. Coordinate with the Child Abduction County Counsel(s) and or District Attorney toward recovery of the child;
4. Obtain the history of the case and current dependency records, if any, and the names and telephone numbers of the attorneys of record;
5. Prepare a Notification of Intent to publish identifying information and photographs of the abducted child;
6. Prepare a Notification of Intent to publish identifying information and photographs of the abducting parent(s), relative(s), or legal guardian(s).
7. Provide notifications to Find the Children for their assistance in the preparation of Child Abduction/ Missing Person's flyer on the child and abductor;
8. Conduct clearances, including CWS/ CMS, LRS, CLEAR, Medslite, Parent locator and social media, on all parties;
9. Coordinate with Find the Children to link the recovered child to reunification therapy to reduce the trauma of the abduction and support a successful and lasting reunification.



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