



# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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**Issue 24-05 (REV)**

**Date: 5/10/2024**

## EBONY ALERTS

The California Highway Patrol is the lead agency for the statewide Ebony Alert Program.

The California Statewide Ebony Alert Program was introduced through Senate Bill 673 and became law in 2024 by adding Section 8594.14 to the California Government Code. An Ebony Alert is a resource available to law enforcement agencies investigating the suspicious or unexplainable disappearance of a Black woman or Black person. The Ebony Alert will provide immediate information to the public to aid in the swift recovery of missing Black persons.

For an Ebony Alert to be activated, a law enforcement agency may consider that the following criteria have been met. (Government Code section 8594.14):

1. The missing person is between 12 to 25 years of age.
2. The missing person suffers from a mental or physical disability.
3. The person is missing under circumstances that indicate any of the following:
  - (A) The missing person's physical safety may be endangered.
  - (B) The missing person may be subject to trafficking.
4. The law enforcement agency determines that the person has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.
5. The law enforcement agency believes that the person is in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, or environment or weather conditions, that the person is in the company of a potentially dangerous person, or that there are other factors indicating that the person may be in peril.
6. The investigating law enforcement agency has utilized available local resources.
7. There is information available that, if disseminated to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

A Missing Person's police report has to be taken first, before an alert can be considered. A Caregiver, Children's Social Worker or Supervising Social Worker can file the Missing Person's police report.

If a child has been abducted and either the Children's Social Worker (CSW) or the Supervising Children's Social Worker (SCSW) determines that the child meets the criteria for an Ebony Alert, the following actions must be taken immediately:

- Report the abduction and request the initiation of a Child Abduction Report at the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over:
  1. The location of the DCFS office,

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

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

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2. Where the child abduction took place, or
3. Where the child is discovered.

- Ensure there is ample descriptive information regarding the child, abductor, and/or vehicle to warrant an immediate broadcast aiding in the location of the child. A vehicle is not required for an alert to be issued. The California Highway Patrol has ultimate authority over whether to issue an alert.

If the CSW and/or SCSW need assistance making a report with law enforcement, there is a [Child Abduction Website](#) on LA Kids and a DCFS iPhone app which can help with steps needed for making a police report. CSW and or SCSW's can also contact County Counsel, Alyssa Skolnick, at (323) 547-4349 or [askolnick@counsel.lacounty.gov](mailto:askolnick@counsel.lacounty.gov) for assistance and or e-mail the Child Abduction Unit at [Child\\_Abduction\\_Unit@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:Child_Abduction_Unit@dcfs.lacounty.gov).

- The CSW shall also contact the Child Abduction Unit at (323) 881-1303, during normal business hours to report the abduction. Please refer to policy [1200-501.20, Child Abduction and Recovery](#) for comprehensive procedures regarding Child Abduction Cases.

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