



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 24-09

Date: 6/11/2024

FEATHER ALERTS

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

The California Statewide Feather Alert Program was introduced through Assembly Bill 1314 and became law in 2022 by adding Section 8594.13 to the California Government Code. A Feather Alert is a resource available to law enforcement agencies investigating the suspicious or unexplainable disappearance of an indigenous woman or indigenous person. The Feather Alert will provide immediate information to the public to aid in the swift recovery of missing indigenous persons.

In order for a Feather Alert to be activated, a law enforcement agency must determine that the following criteria have been met (Government Code section 8594.13):

1. The missing person is an indigenous woman or indigenous person.
2. The investigating law enforcement agency has utilized available local and tribal resources.
3. The law enforcement agency determines that the person has gone missing under unexplainable or suspicious circumstances.
4. The law enforcement agency believes that the person is in danger.
5. 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 (CSW) or Supervising Children's Social Worker (SCSW) can file the Missing Person's police report.

If a child has been abducted and either the CSW or the SCSW determines that the child meets the criteria for a Feather 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;
 - 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 you have any questions regarding this release, please e-mail your question to:

Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov

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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. CSWs and/or SCSWs can also contact County Counsel, Alyssa Skolnick, at (323) 547-4349 or askolnick@counsel.lacounty.gov for assistance and or e-mail the Child Abduction Unit at 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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