

Utah Public Alerts



Administered
through the Utah
Department of
Public Safety and
the Bureau of
Criminal
Identification

Utah has four types of public safety alerts available and at the disposal of law enforcement to assist in safe location and recovery of missing individuals.

- Utah AMBER Alert (America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response)
- Endangered Missing Advisory Alert (EMA)
- Silver Alert
- Blue Alert



Criteria for Missing Person

- Law Enforcement agency must have a missing person report on file to support a missing person entry, or alert.
- Missing person should be entered into the national database (NCIC) as soon as possible.



AMBER Alert

The Utah AMBER Alert is part of the nationwide AMBER Alert Plan. It is a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies and broadcasters. It utilizes electronic roadway signs, cell phones, and email as methods to alert the public about a missing child and a suspected abductor.

The goal is to instantly activate the entire community to assist in the search for and safe return of abducted children.



AMBER Alert: Background

- Utah adopted the AMBER Alert plan in April 2002.
 - Originally known as the Rachael Alert for Rachael Marie Runyan.
 - Name changed to match national name in 2003.
- First Rachael Alert was issued June 5, 2002.
 - Elizabeth Smart.
- Utah was the 5th state to adopt a statewide plan.
- To date, Utah has issued 77 AMBER alerts for 96 kids.

PLEASE FIND ME



Elizabeth Smart	
Victim Description	
Age:	14 years old
Gender:	Female
Hair:	Blonde
Eyes:	Blue
Outfit:	Red pajamas
Height:	5' 4" - 5'6" in
Weight:	100 lbs - 45 kg
DOB:	Nov 3, 1987
Missing:	June 5, 2002
Home:	Salt Lake City, UT USA

Suspect Description
Caucasian Male
30 to 40 years old
5' 8" to 5' 10"
Dark Hair
Hair in army and
back of hands
Light jacket
Light Gold Hat or
English looking hat
Dark shoes

www.elizabethsmart.com

SEARCH CENTER TOLL-FREE 866-FIND LIZ / 866-346-3549
POLICE HOTLINE 801-799-3000

A \$200,000 REWARD is being offered for the safe return of Elizabeth Smart.
A \$25,000 REWARD is being offered for someone's information leading investigators
to Elizabeth or information resulting in a conviction in this case.
Anonymous tip line: 801-799-4473 146263



What determines an AMBER Alert?

Law enforcement has to consider ALL four items listed in the AMBER Alert criteria before sending out an AMBER Alert.

If the criteria does not fit the AMBER Alert requirements, then the agency can consider issuing an Endangered Missing Advisory (EMA).

Criteria

- Law Enforcement believes a child or children have been abducted
- The child or children are 17 years old or younger
- Law Enforcement believes the victim(s) face imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death
- There is information that could assist the public in the safe recovery of the victim or apprehension of a suspect



Procedure

Alerts can be activated anytime of the day or night and will include information on the child, as well as the suspect/person of interest, and/or vehicle.

All this information is shared with the media and the public all with the sole purpose of locating the missing child as soon as possible.

If during the investigation, the agency discovers the suspect might be traveling out of state, BCI has the ability to transmit the alert to surrounding states, or nationwide. If needed, the Utah AMBER Alert coordinators may also reach out to other states and request that they activate an AMBER Alert on our behalf.

AMBER Alert can be changed or modified anytime new information comes in.



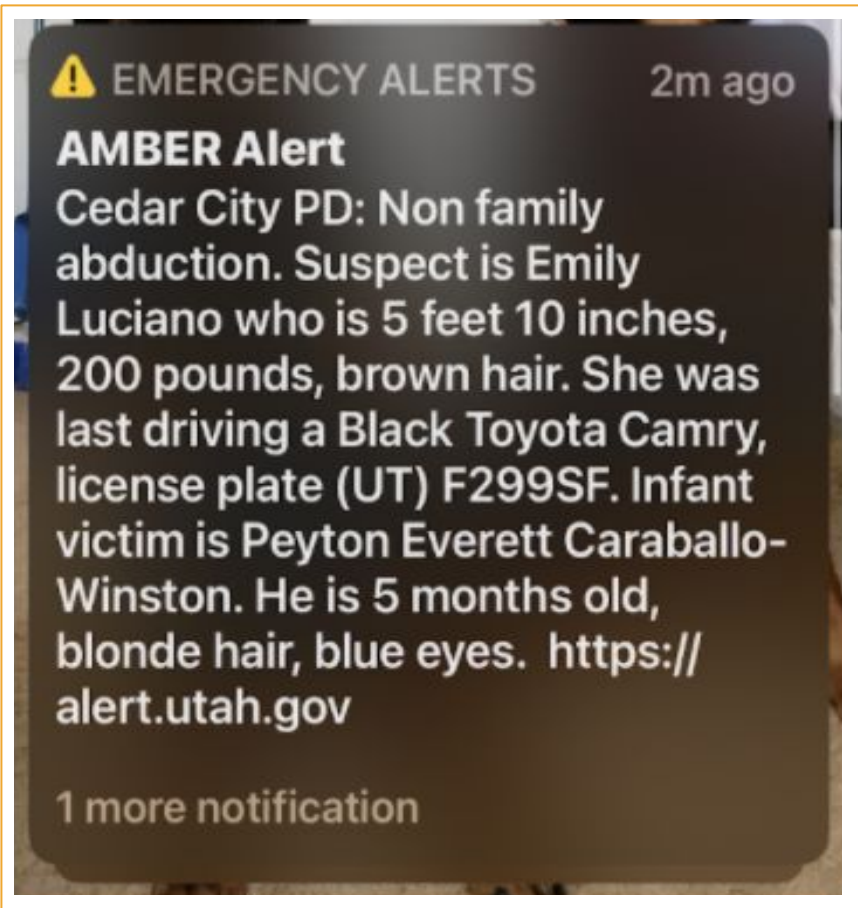
Methods of Notification

Utah BCI automatically activates the following notification methods to alert the public:

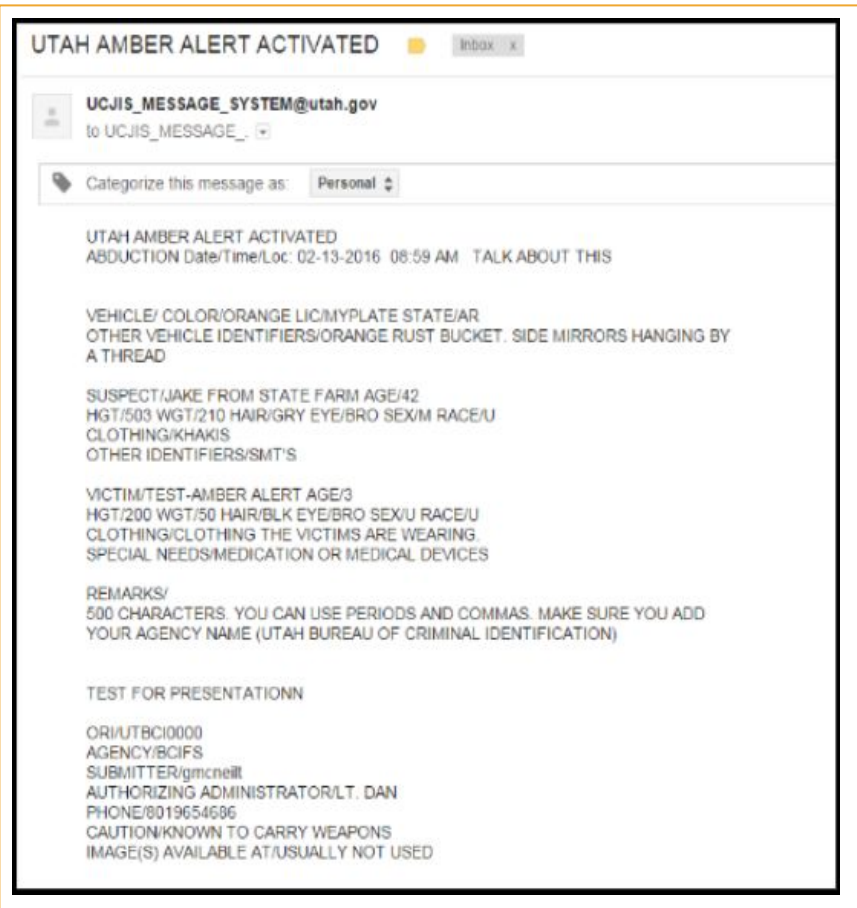
Traffic Signs



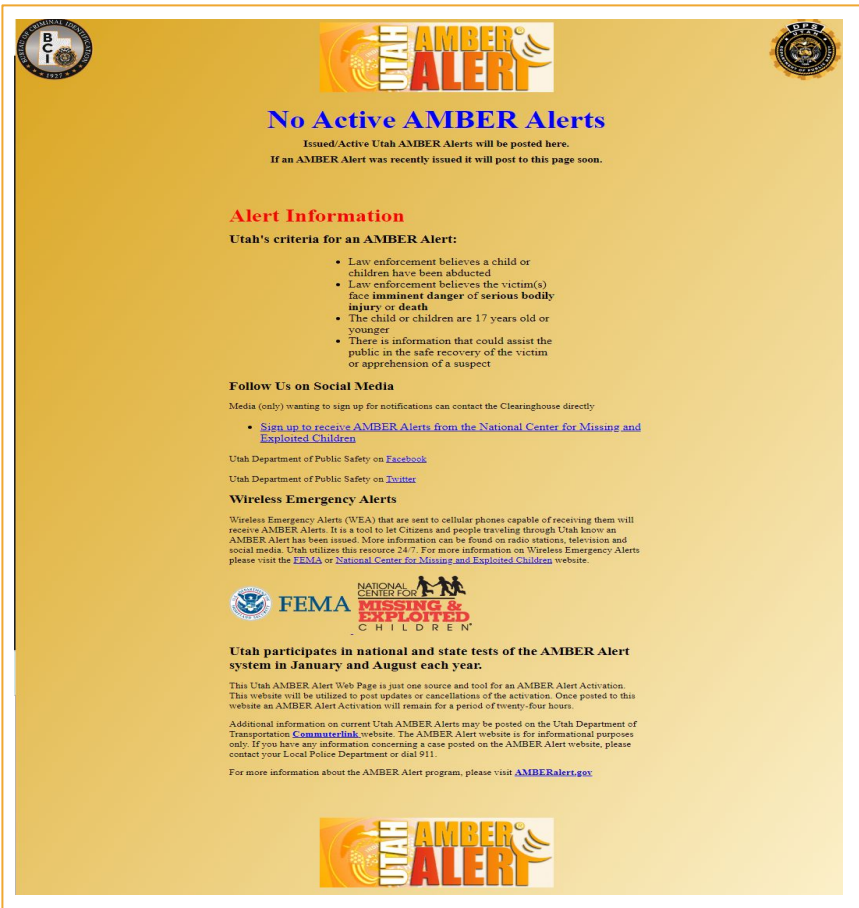
WEA (Cell Phone) Message



Emails (Media)



Alert Website

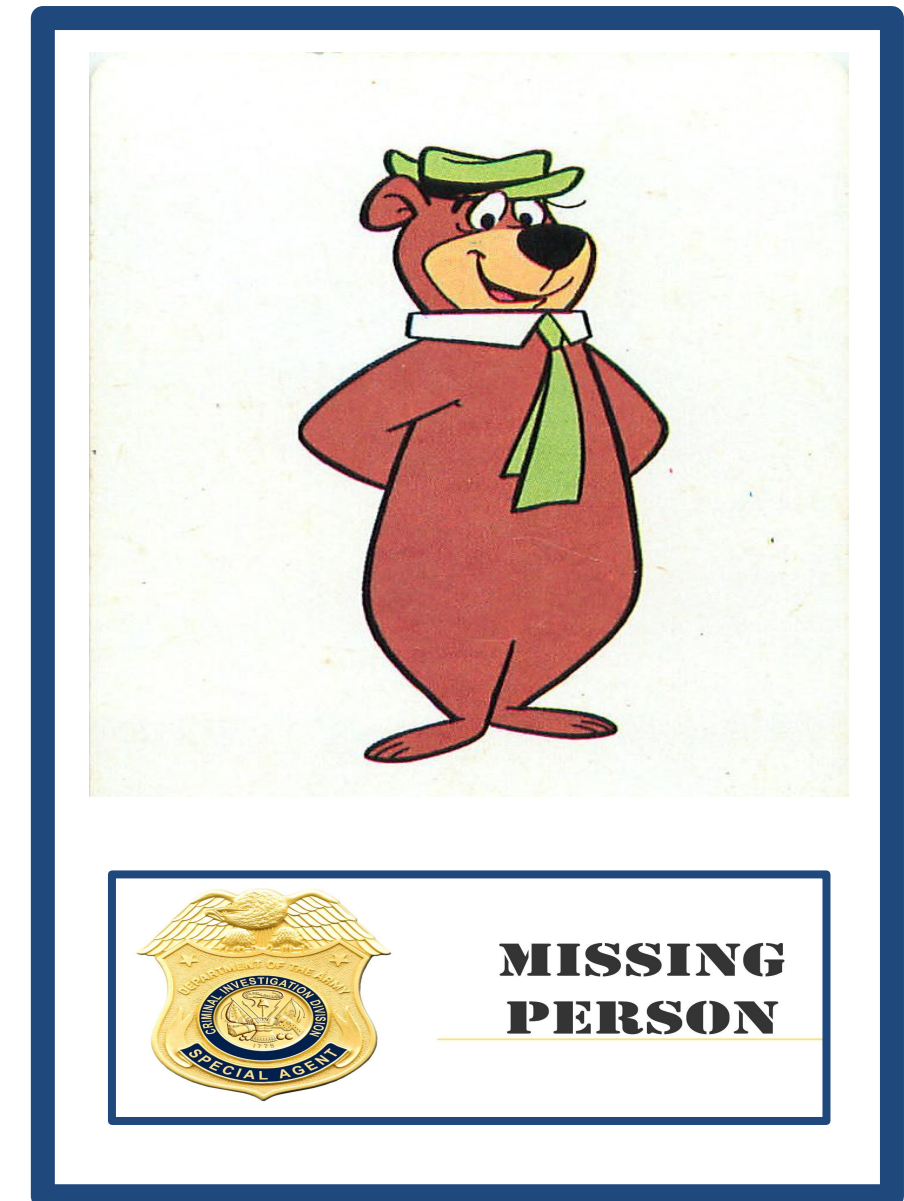


Endangered Missing Advisory (EMA)

The Endangered Missing Advisory Alert is to be used for endangered or missing persons of any age with urgent needs.

It is also a voluntary partnership between law enforcement and local broadcasters to rapidly disseminate information to all of Utah law enforcement agencies, news media, and the public.

This is an alternative solution to situations that do not meet the AMBER Alert criteria.



Are there guidelines for an EMA?

The EMA is initiated solely by Utah law enforcement agencies using the following guidelines:

- For juveniles, do the circumstances fail to meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert?
- Is the person missing under unexplained, involuntary, or suspicious circumstances?
- Is the person believed to be in danger?

Danger due to any of the following:

- Age
- Health
- Environment
- Mental disability
- Weather conditions
- In the company of a potentially dangerous person
- Any other factor that may put the person in peril such as: Internet enticed, missing college student, and overdue hikers or travelers



Procedure

Once the guidelines have been met, the agency who is issuing an EMA contacts BCI at the UCJIS Help Desk to let them know that an EMA is being issued (or cancelled).

After removing all sensitive information, the UCJIS Help Desk will send an email to all media. The media then decide if they want to broadcast the information.

If the agency feels, they can appoint a Public Information Officer (PIO) to handle the press, and release further information if needed.



Methods of Notification

- Different from the AMBER Alert, the only automatic notification will be to all law enforcement.
 - The UCJIS Help Desk sends an email notification to the media with law enforcement sensitive information removed.
 - No freeway signs will be activated by the Traffic Operations Center (TOC) unless warranted.
 - No email or cell phones will be activated.



Silver Alert

Utah's Silver Alert went live in May 2019, and is an alert notification for missing endangered adults 60 years of age or older and/or individuals of any age with Dementia or Alzheimer's.

The Silver Alert is mandatory if the circumstances meet the criteria.



Silver Alert Guidelines

- Anyone over the age of 60.
- Individuals of any age with Dementia or Alzheimer's.
 - This includes Autistic individuals of any age.

Utah's definition of endangered adult and dementia

(1) "Dementia" means a person has a form of cognitive decline that significantly affects the person's ability to make decisions and provide for health, safety, or self-care. This term includes Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia marked by the continual loss of memory and awareness of surroundings.

(2) "Endangered adult" means a person 60 years of age or older or a person under 60 years of age who has a form of dementia.



Procedure

Once the guidelines have been met, the agency who is issuing the Silver Alert should contact BCI at the UCJIS Help Desk to let them know that the alert is being issued (or cancelled).

After entering the information in UCJIS, an email will be sent to the media by the help desk. The media then decides if they want to broadcast the information.

The BCI's Silver Alert webpage will show any active Silver Alerts.



Methods of Notification

- The TOC will activate signs in the geographical area where the person went missing.
 - If law enforcement agency determines a larger geographical area should be alerted, the law enforcement agency may contact the Help Desk to make that request.



Blue Alert

The BLUE Alert system is to help law enforcement with the means to speed the apprehension of violent criminals who kill or seriously injure local, state, or federal law enforcement officers.

The Blue Alert facilitates a speedy capture of criminals that pose a threat to the community and law enforcement personnel.

Using media broadcasts and Department of Transportation messaging signs, each Blue Alert covers the state with information identifying a detailed description of the offender, the offender's vehicle, and license plate information which will inevitably hinder the violator's ability to flee the state.



Blue Alert Guidelines

The term BLUE ALERT means information sent through the network relating to:

- The serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer in the line of duty or,
- An officer who is missing in connection with the officer's official duties or,
- An imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer.

Utah's definition of injured or assaulted

"Serious bodily injury" means bodily injury that creates or caused serious permanent disfigurement, protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or creates a substantial risk of death.

OR (12) "Substantial bodily injury" means bodily injury, not amounting to serious bodily injury, that creates or causes protracted physical pain, temporary disfigurement, or temporary loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.



Blue Alert Criteria

- Law enforcement officer killed, injured, or assaulted.
- Imminent threat to public.
- Information available for the public.
- Will dissemination of information help avert further harm?
- Agency administrator must approve the alert.

Utah's definition of injured or assaulted

"Serious bodily injury" means bodily injury that creates or caused serious permanent disfigurement, protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or creates a substantial risk of death.

OR (12) "Substantial bodily injury" means bodily injury, not amounting to serious bodily injury, that creates or causes protracted physical pain, temporary disfigurement, or temporary loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.



Procedure

The issuing agency must contact the UCJIS Help Desk to inform them that a Blue Alert is being issued.

The Media who requested notification will broadcast the message.

The Traffic Operations Control (TOC) may activate the freeway signs if warranted.

All Utah law enforcement agencies will receive a new Broadcast Message with the alert's information.



Quick Reminder:

For a missing person to be listed on the BCI Website, a Missing Person Waiver must be submitted to BCI by the agency or a family member.

- Waiver can be submitted in person or by email.
- The agency case number must be included, along with the victim’s photo.

Criteria for Entry into the Utah Missing Persons Bulletin

The following guidelines must be met before information on a deceased/living person can be entered into the Utah Missing Bulletin/Web Site.

MISSING PERSON (Information on a Utah missing person or a person from another state but believed to be in Utah.)

1. The parent, spouse or guardian must contact a law enforcement agency to file a missing person report. The missing person must be entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) files by the law enforcement agency.
2. A "Missing Persons Clearinghouse Report Form" must be returned to the Utah Missing Person Clearinghouse, Department of Public Safety, 4315 S 2700 W, Suite 1300, Taylorsville, UT 84129. Forms can be obtained from the Clearinghouse.
3. A current original photograph (color preferred) must be received by the Utah Missing Person Clearinghouse. (Note: Do not write on the back of the photograph.)
4. All information must be approved by the law enforcement agency that filed the missing person report.
5. The Utah Missing Person Clearinghouse personnel will obtain the law enforcement phone number to contact in the event the person is located. Sighting information is received by the Utah Missing Person Clearinghouse.
6. In cases of parental abductions, a copy of the court-certified custody order stating that the reporting parent has custody must be received by the Utah Missing Person Clearinghouse. (Note: If it is requested that the non-custodial parent's photograph be included in the bulletin, a copy of the court-certified active felony warrant, which is presently in NCIC must be made available to Utah Missing Person Clearinghouse prior to publication of the photograph.)
7. The parent, spouse, guardian or investigating officer must submit the report to the Utah Missing Person Clearinghouse immediately of the location or return of the missing person.

UTAH MISSING PERSON CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT FORM/WAIVER
Be very specific, the more accurate and complete the information, the better the chances of identification.

MISSING PERSON

NAME: (LAST, First, Middle)

ALIAS/NICKNAMES:

SEX:

RACE:

PLACE OF BIRTH: (City, State, County)

DATE OF BIRTH:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR COLOR:

EYE COLOR:

BUILD:

DATE OF LAST CONTACT:

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:

HAIR LENGTH:

HAIR STYLE:

COMPLEXION:

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS (Scars, Limp, Tattoos, Jewelry, Glasses, Etc.)

DENTAL RECORDS AVAILABLE?
☐ YES ☐ NO

MEDICAL RECORDS AVAILABLE?
☐ YES ☐ NO

FINGERPRINTS AVAILABLE?
☐ YES ☐ NO

MEDICAL PROBLEMS?
☐ YES ☐ NO

TYPE OF PROBLEM:

PRESCRIPTIONS:

MENTAL STATE (Depressed, Suicidal, etc.):

LOCATION LAST SEEN (Include City, State):

DATE/TIME OF LAST CONTACT:

LAST SEEN WEARING:

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS (Dancing, Swimming, Surfing, Fishing, etc.):

ASSOCIATIONS & HANGOUTS (Country Bars, V. Rinks, etc.):

INCIDENT TYPE:
☐ RUNAWAY ☐ PARENTAL ABDUCTION ☐ ENDANGERED ☐ INVOLUNTARY ☐ DISABLED ☐ DISAST

SUSPECT INFORMATION

IN COMPANY OF:
☐ NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT ☐ ABDUCTOR ☐ FRIEND

NAME: (LAST, First, Middle)

ALIAS/MAIDEN NAME:

SEX:

RACE:

DATE OF BIRTH:

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS (Street, City, State, Zip)

PHONE:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR COLOR:

EYE COLOR:

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:

DRIVERS LICENSE NUMBER (Include state):

OCCUPATION:

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS (Scars, Limp, Tattoos, Jewelry, Glasses, Etc.)

VEHICLE

MAKE:

MODEL:

VEHICLE YEAR:

TYPE/STYLE:

COLOR:

LI

LICENSE STATE:

DESCRIPTION (Other identifying characteristics, noticeable damage, accessories, VIN):

PARENT / GUARDIAN / SPOUSE

PARENT/GUARDIAN/SPOUSE NAME: (LAST, First, Middle)

STREET ADDRESS:

NOTE TO PARENT/GUARDIAN/SPOUSE CAREFULLY READ AND SIGN STATEMENT OF

AGENCY INFORMATION

LOCAL AGENCY HANDLING CASE:

LOCAL AGENCY CASE NUMBER:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

OTHER INFORMATION

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION (Attach additional sheets, if needed, include any information regarding person's disappearance that may assist in the recovery of the person. If the person has been missing before, indicate where and how recovered)

INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

The completed Report Form should be signed by the parent/ guardian/spouse and mailed along with the applicable enclosures to:
Department of Public Safety
Utah Missing Person Clearinghouse
4315 S 2700 W, Suite 1300
Taylorsville, Utah 84129
Toll Free Hotline: (888) 770-6477 or (801) 281-5075

APPLICABLE ENCLOSURES

Current photograph of the missing person.

In cases of parental abductions, a copy of the court-certified custody order stating that the reporting parent has custody must be enclosed. (NOTE: If it is requested that the non-custodial parent's photograph be included in the bulletin, a copy of the court-certified active felony warrant, which is presently in NCIC must be made available to Utah Missing Person Clearinghouse prior to publication of the photograph.)

The undersigned _____ of _____
(Print name and relationship: parent, spouse, legal guardian, etc.) (Print name of the missing person)
hereby requests that his/her name, age, description, photograph (enclosed), and circumstances surrounding his/her missing status be published and circulated by any method subscribed to by the investigating agency or the Utah Department of Public Safety, Missing Person Clearinghouse, which includes, but is not limited to, dissemination to the public, other law enforcement agencies, hospitals, social services, children's shelters, medical examiners and/or other agencies involved with missing persons.

It is further understood and agreed that any and all information supplied by me shall be truthful, and I agree to hold harmless the Utah Department of Public Safety for any errors of omission or commission occasioned by misinformation I may supply.

I agree to hold harmless any agency or department using transmitting, or distributing this information for any errors whatsoever occasioned by misinformation I may supply and to indemnify the Utah Department of Public Safety, all law enforcement agencies, or other organization-s individuals, and contacts or sources of information, and undertake to hold harmless said entities from and against all legal liabilities, including defendants' cost for suits, claims, actions or damages that the reported missing person might prosecute against them.

I agree to notify the Utah Missing Person Clearinghouse and the investigating agency of any updated, new or additional information concerning, the missing person and/or his whereabouts and of any changes in my address or telephone number. I further agree that a photostatic copy of this authorization has the same effect as the original.

X _____ X _____ X _____
(Printed name of Parent/Guardian/Spouse) (Signature of Parent/Guardian/Spouse) (Date)

THIS BOX FOR THE USE OF THE UTAH MISSING PERSON CLEARINGHOUSE

DATE RECEIVED:

DATE CONFIRMED:

NIC NUMBER:

WEB PAGE UPDATED:

VERIFIED WITH AGENCY:

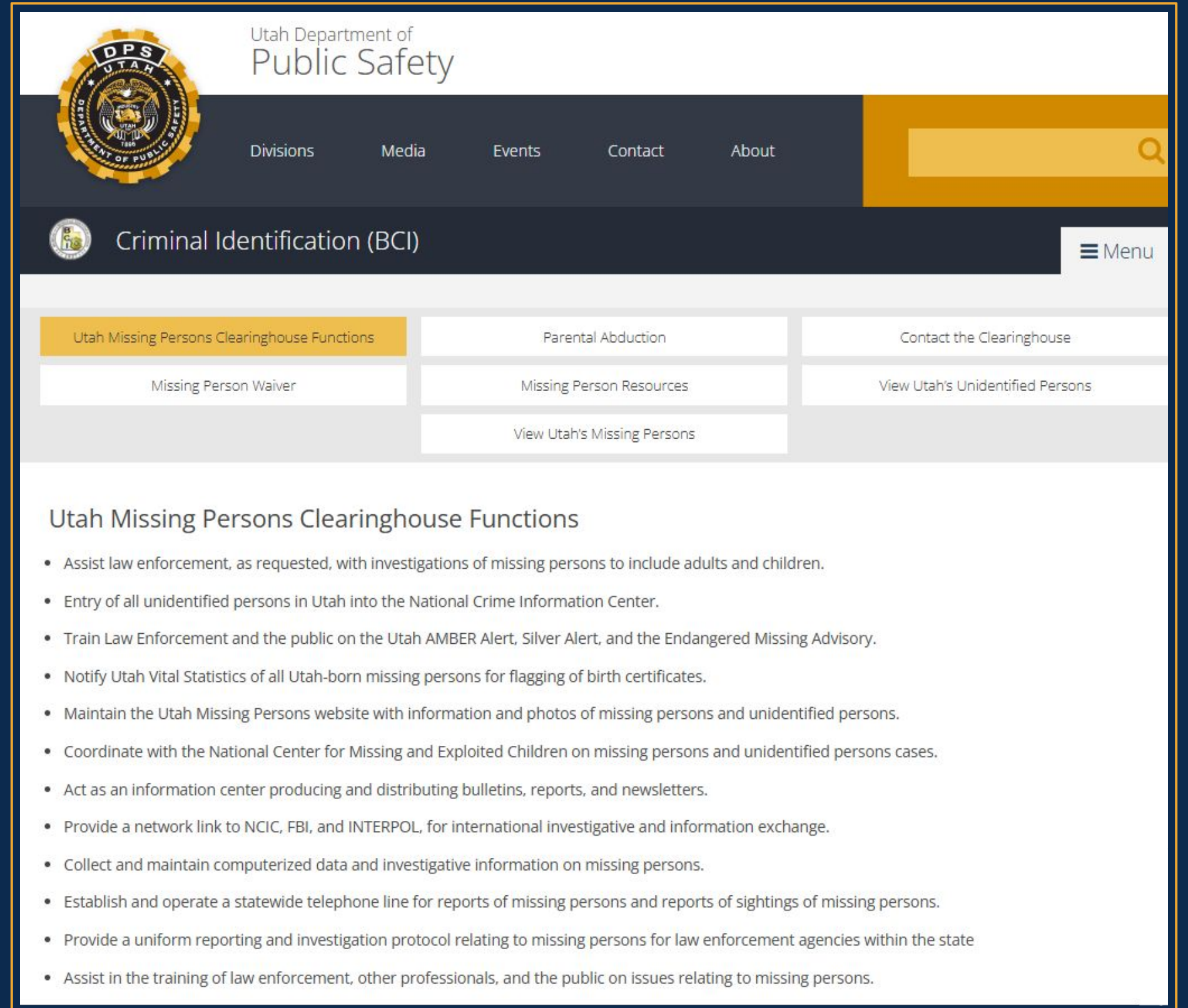
DATE CLEARED:

MISSING PERSON PACKET FILLED OUT:

Utah Missing Persons Website

The missing persons website for Utah can be found at:
bci.utah.gov/missing-persons

- Resources
- Contact information
- Missing Person Waiver
- Missing persons bulletin
- Unidentified persons



The screenshot shows the official website of the Utah Department of Public Safety's Criminal Identification Bureau (BCI). The header features the Utah Department of Public Safety logo and navigation links for Divisions, Media, Events, Contact, and About. A search bar is located on the right. Below the header, the BCI logo and name are displayed, along with a menu icon. The main content area is titled "Utah Missing Persons Clearinghouse Functions" and includes a grid of links: "Utah Missing Persons Clearinghouse Functions" (highlighted), "Parental Abduction", "Contact the Clearinghouse", "Missing Person Waiver", "Missing Person Resources", "View Utah's Unidentified Persons", and "View Utah's Missing Persons". Below this grid, a section titled "Utah Missing Persons Clearinghouse Functions" lists 14 bullet points detailing the bureau's responsibilities, such as assisting law enforcement, maintaining the website, and providing training.

Utah Department of Public Safety

Divisions Media Events Contact About

Criminal Identification (BCI) Menu

Utah Missing Persons Clearinghouse Functions

- Utah Missing Persons Clearinghouse Functions
- Parental Abduction
- Contact the Clearinghouse
- Missing Person Waiver
- Missing Person Resources
- View Utah's Unidentified Persons
- View Utah's Missing Persons

Utah Missing Persons Clearinghouse Functions

- Assist law enforcement, as requested, with investigations of missing persons to include adults and children.
- Entry of all unidentified persons in Utah into the National Crime Information Center.
- Train Law Enforcement and the public on the Utah AMBER Alert, Silver Alert, and the Endangered Missing Advisory.
- Notify Utah Vital Statistics of all Utah-born missing persons for flagging of birth certificates.
- Maintain the Utah Missing Persons website with information and photos of missing persons and unidentified persons.
- Coordinate with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children on missing persons and unidentified persons cases.
- Act as an information center producing and distributing bulletins, reports, and newsletters.
- Provide a network link to NCIC, FBI, and INTERPOL, for international investigative and information exchange.
- Collect and maintain computerized data and investigative information on missing persons.
- Establish and operate a statewide telephone line for reports of missing persons and reports of sightings of missing persons.
- Provide a uniform reporting and investigation protocol relating to missing persons for law enforcement agencies within the state
- Assist in the training of law enforcement, other professionals, and the public on issues relating to missing persons.



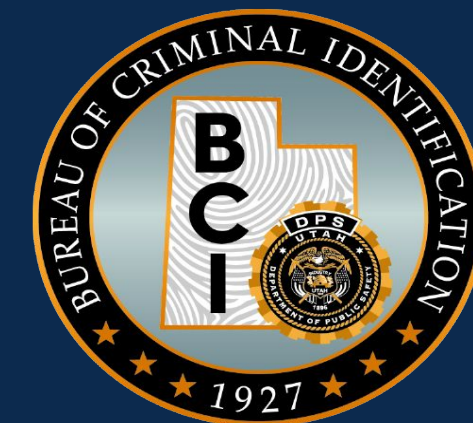
Quick Reminders:

- A cancelation has to be submitted for **ALL ALERTS** after the missing child/person has been located, whether they are found safe or not.
 - Recently we noticed that there are at least 5 Endangered Missing Alerts (EMA's) for which we never received a cancelation notice and the subjects were located safely.
- Modifications are only to be submitted if there are changes or updates that need to be made on the alerts (AMBER and Silver).
 - If missing person is located, alert must be canceled, and not modified.
- The UCJIS Help Desk must be notified prior to issuance of an alert is issued, and should be contacted when an alert is canceled.
 - 801-503-5566 AMBER Alerts ONLY
 - 801-965-4446 (Silver, EMA, and Blue)



An Agency Perspective

Sgt. Vazquez
Riverdale Police Dept.



THANK YOU

