

News Release

Cass County Sheriff's Office and Atlantic Police Department Go High Tech to Search for Missing Children

Atlantic, Iowa---Cass County Sheriff Darby McLaren and Police Chief Steve Green have formalized an agreement with the A Child Is Missing Alert Program that has led to a high tech method now in place to search locally for missing children, missing elderly (often with Alzheimer's), college students, and missing persons who may be mentally or physically challenged or disabled.

Effective October 14th, 2009, upon receipt of missing persons calls, the Cass County Sheriff's Office and the Atlantic Police Department will make their first phone call to a toll free number that rings in Fort Lauderdale, Florida—the national headquarters of the A Child Is Missing Alert Program. The call, answered 24/7 365 by an Information and Mapping Technician, initiates a rapid process of information gathering and use of sophisticated mapping systems. A Child Is Missing then launches potentially thousands of calls within minutes with an alert message detailing the missing person's description, last known whereabouts, and pertinent information. This alert message will also include a Cass County Sheriff's Office or Atlantic Police Department phone number for use by anyone with information relating to the missing person.

This program is a free service to law enforcement. Cass County Sheriff and Atlantic Police Department officials will evaluate each potential activation of the A Child Is Missing Alert Program to ensure the application is appropriate to the case and to ensure the system is optimally used. Policies, procedures, and employee training will also guide the most efficient and effective use of this Alert Program.

Telephone numbers that are called by this program include listed numbers in the selected area, but do not include cell phone numbers, unlisted numbers, broadband/voice-over IP numbers, or TDD/TTY devices. These numbers can be added to ensure they, too, are called in the event of an alert. To enter your cell phone, unlisted, broadband/voice-over IP or TDD/TYY device number visit www.achildissing.org and click on "add your name" to enter your name, number and address. This information will only be used for emergency message alerts.

A Child Is Missing is a nationwide non-profit organization that helps law enforcement agencies locate missing children, missing elderly persons (often suffering from Alzheimer's), college students, and missing persons who are mentally or physically challenged or disabled. A Child Is Missing utilizes sophisticated computer mapping systems and trained technicians with the capacity to place 1,000 alert phone calls in one minute to residents and businesses in the area where someone has gone missing. To date the efforts of A Child Is Missing have been credited with more than 620 safe assisted recoveries.