

## Protecting Our Children In Indian Country



James R. Warren  
Susan A. WhiteHorse  
Division of Criminal Investigation

When you listen to parents who have lost a child, it is difficult to comprehend how they get through each day, and do what they do.

The consistent message they all share is that we ALL must take missing and exploited child matters seriously ...

ALWAYS.



WhiteHorse Family

## An Overview of the Issue



# Missing Children Homicide Investigation Study

U.S. Department of Justice,  
Office of Juvenile Justice  
and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)  
and the  
Washington State  
Attorney General's Office

## Dramatic Findings:

- 44% died within the first hour.
- 74% died within the first three hours.

# How Many Native Americans Missing?

- Children 17 years old and younger:
  - Arizona: 134
  - California: 67
  - New Mexico: 25
  - Nevada: 17
  - Colorado: 19
- Adults 18 years old and older:
  - Arizona: 121
  - California: 87
  - New Mexico: 35
  - Nevada: 7
  - Colorado: 3
- Total Missing:
  - Arizona: 255
  - California: 154
  - New Mexico: 60
  - Nevada: 24
  - Colorado: 21

NCIC

## Who are our missing children?

- NCMEC lists 5 distinct categories of missing children:
  - Runaways
  - Parental/Family Abductions
  - Stranger/Non-Family Abductions
  - Throwaways
  - Lost, Injured or Otherwise Missing

## Family Abductions

## Family Abduction- Definition

- A family abduction occurs when, in violation of a custody order, or other legitimate custodial rights, a member of the child's family, or someone acting on behalf of a family member, takes or fails to return a child, and the child is concealed or transported out of state with the intent to prevent contact or deprive the caretaker of custodial rights indefinitely or permanently

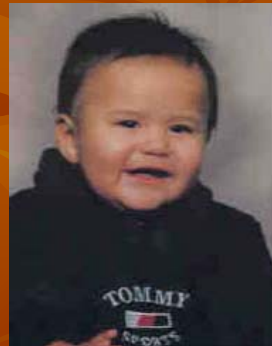
## Family Abductions

- It is estimated that 203,900 family abductions are occurring each year.
- Not just a civil matter
- Most victim children are between the ages of 2 and 11.
- File a missing persons report
  - Enter into NCIC
  - Utilize same procedures for investigating non-family abductions

## Parental kidnapping can be provoked by a variety of events, including:

- Separation and/or the filing of divorce papers.
- Remarriage.
- Involvement of one parent with a new partner.
- Conflict over child support, custody or visitation.

## Marshall Fox Case Family Abduction



It is a myth  
that children are not harmed  
as the result of family abductions.

### **“The Childs Not In Danger, Their Father/Mother Has Them!”**

- It is not uncommon for child victims to:
  - Have their names changed.
  - Have their appearances altered.
  - Experience frequent moves or homelessness.
  - Experience unstable schooling.
  - Experience physical neglect.
  - Experience medical neglect.
  - Be told lies about the parent left behind:
    - “He/she is dead.”
    - “He/she doesn’t want you any more.”

**The Number One Cause Of  
Death For Children Under The  
Age 11 Is?**

**At The Hands Of Their Parents**







# **Non-Family Abductions**



## **Non-family Abduction- Definition**

- A non-family abduction occurs when a non-family perpetrator takes a child by the use of physical force or threat of bodily harm without lawful authority or parental permission



# Victims



## Why did the killer select the child?

Opportunity was listed  
in 57% of the cases.

## **Offenders' Motivation:**

70% of abductions were motivated by sex.

## **Missing Children Law**

- Mandates immediate NCIC & LE system Entry (eliminates waiting periods)
- Requires “appropriate investigative response”
- Requires case information to be sent to State Clearinghouses
- Requires that local Law Enforcement Agencies liaison with the NCMEC

All missing children are  
considered endangered.

Time is the ENEMY in the  
search for a missing child.

## **Amber Alerts Protecting Our Children**



## What is an Amber Alert Plan?

- Emergency child abduction alert
- Purpose -- **SAVE THE LIFE OF A CHILD**
- The plan is a collaborative partnership between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to alert the public with critical information about an abducted child

## Amber Alert

- Investigative tool
- Good police work
- Technology
  - Cell tracking
  - Thermal imaging
  - Computer
  - Analyst
  - Clearinghouse

## What happens when an Amber Alert has been activated?

- Radio and television stations interrupt programming to broadcast information about the abducted child using the Emergency Alert System (EAS)
- The EAS will broadcast information on the abducted child, who is believed to be in danger of serious bodily harm or death

## Amber Alert Criteria

- **The Child is believed to be ABDUCTED!**
- Child should be 17 years of age or younger
- Child must be in danger of serious bodily harm or death
- There must be enough descriptive information about the child, suspect(s) and suspect vehicle(s) to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help locate the child

## Amber Alert Criteria

- Note - Not be used for:
  - Runaways, Family Abductions
  - Unless child's life is in immediate danger

## Amber Alert

### Reasons for denied activations:

- Family abduction
  - there are an estimated 203,900 family abductions each year in US
- No immediate threat to child
- Need for follow-up investigation by law enforcement

## Missing Kids / Runaways

- Will meet some Amber Alert criteria, but there is no ABDUCTION
- Estimated 1,682,900 runaways/throwaways each year in the US

## Amber Alert Time Frame

- Some Amber Alert requests are many hours or even days old
- With 74% of abductions that resulted in a homicide, the child was killed within the first three hours



## Wisconsin Clearinghouse for Missing & Exploited Children

- The Wisconsin Clearinghouse Missing and Exploited Children was established in 1994, in response to concerns regarding missing and exploited children in Wisconsin.
- The Wisconsin Clearinghouse is located in the Division of Criminal Investigation, within the Department of Justice.

## Wisconsin Clearinghouse Resources and Services

- Assist tribal, local, state, and federal agencies and families searching for missing and exploited children and adults.
- Actively assists in **Amber Alert** activations
- Collaborates with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and 50 other state clearinghouses and the District of Columbia.
- Located within law enforcement agencies

## Wisconsin Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

- One of 46 Regional Task Forces

## Violent Criminal Apprehension Program VICAP

- Tracks serial killers and repeat offenders
- Collects and analyzes crime of violence
- Patterns of offenders behavior
- DOJ/DCI contact
  - Darla J. Waldron
  - Telephone: (608) 266-1671
  - Fax: (608) 267-2777
  - Email: [waldrondj@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:waldrondj@doj.state.wi.us)

## Wisconsin Clearinghouse Resources and Services

Toll-free hotline (in-state only):

- 1-800-THE-HOPE
- 1-800-843-4673

## Wisconsin Clearinghouse Resources and Services


Creates and disseminates posters/flyers.

- Locater Computer System

Creates and disseminates posters/flyers.

- Critical Reach System (TRAK Computer System)


**MISSING CHILD**  
**Endangered Runaway**  
**Tiffany Reid**



Age: 18 DOB: 12/02/1987  
Sex: Female  
Race: Am. Ind.  
Hair: Black Eyes: Brown  
Height: 5'3"  
Weight: 115

Missing From: Shiprock, NM  
Missing Since: May 17, 2004  
Tiffany was last seen at home on May 17, 2004.  
She may still be in New Mexico or she may have  
traveled to Arizona or Mexico. She has a scar  
under her right eye and a scar on one of her arms.  
Her nickname is Kay-C.

Navajo Department of Public Safety  
Shiprock District  
New Mexico  
505-368-1350



Wisconsin



LOCATER  
1-888-233-8273  
11/08/2006

## Wisconsin Clearinghouse Resources and Services


- Acts as a liaison between victims, parents, law enforcement and state and federal agencies.
- Provides victims and parents of victims with information and referrals.
- Assists victims and their families in securing services from other agencies.
- Arranges transportation and lodging for victim families to be reunited with their children.
- Assists in reunification.

## **Wisconsin Clearinghouse Resources and Services**

### **Public Awareness:**

- Gives presentations on missing and exploited children and internet crimes against children:
  - schools, community groups
- Participates in law enforcement events
- Participates in community events.
- Disseminates education material.

## **Working Together As Partners to Prevent Crimes Against Children in Indian Country**



**3rd Annual Multi-Jurisdictional Approach to Crimes Against Children in Indian Country**

**Who Should Attend**

- Tribal/Non-Tribal Law Enforcement
- Administrators and Supervisors
- Investigators and Prosecutors
- Patrol and Community Policing Officers
- Judges and Court Administrators
- Victim Service Coordinators
- Youth Correctional Officers
- Probation/Parole Officers
- Sex Offender Monitors and Re-Entry Staff
- Social Workers
- Peer Counselors

**Dates & Location**  
**March 4-6, 2008**  
 Ho-Chunk Hotel & Casino  
 Baraboo, Wisconsin

**To Register**  
 To register or for additional information, please visit [www.tvtc.edu/youth](http://www.tvtc.edu/youth).

For questions regarding this conference or to have a form mailed/faxed to you, please contact Nancy Buddy at (888) 370-1752 or e-mail [cjgrants@tvtc.edu](mailto:cjgrants@tvtc.edu).

**Save the Dates! March 4-6, 2008**

## Target Audience

- Tribal & Non-Tribal Law Enforcement
- Administrators and Supervisors
- Investigators
- Patrol & Community Policing Officers
- Judges
- Court Administrators
- Prosecutors
- Victim Service Coordinators
- Youth Corrections
- Probation & Parole Officers
- Sex Offender Monitors
- Re-Entry Staff
- Social Workers
- Employee Assistance & Community Service Providers
- Youth Service Organization Staff
- Teachers, Principals, School Superintendents
- Criminal Justice Instructors
- Peer Counselors

“A family is a source of personal identity, a loving community, a place of joy, and a cause for celebration.

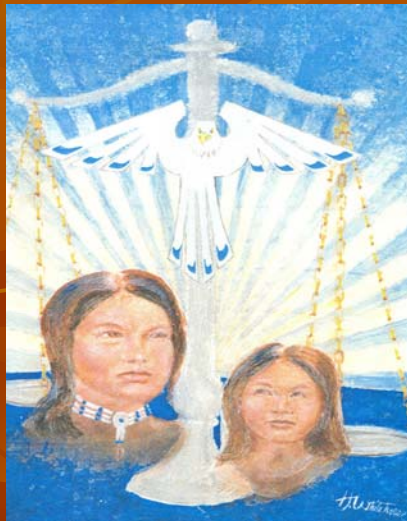
A fierce sense of protection toward kin and nation is second nature when trouble threatens.”

Sioux proverb

### Working Together As Partners to Prevent Crimes Against Children in Indian Country



Avery Lee Stately



Tristan Anthony White