

Senate Engrossed

missing; kidnapped children; reporting requirements

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SENATE BILL 1416

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 8-901 AND 41-1728, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO MISSING CHILDREN REPORTING.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 8-901, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 8-901. Missing, kidnapped or runaway children; mandatory
5 reporting; training

6 A. A law enforcement agency that receives a report of a missing,
7 kidnapped or runaway child shall do all of the following:

8 1. Within two hours after receiving the report and all necessary
9 and available information, submit ALL OF the following information to the
10 Arizona crime information center, ~~AND the national crime information~~
11 ~~center computer networks and the national missing and unidentified persons~~
12 ~~system:~~

13 (a) The name, date of birth, sex, race, height, weight and eye and
14 hair color of the child.

15 ~~(b) A recent photograph of the child, if available.~~

16 ~~(c)~~ (b) The date and location of the last known contact with the
17 child.

18 ~~(d)~~ (c) The category under which the child is reported missing.

19 2. WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER RECEIVING THE REPORT AND ALL
20 NECESSARY AND AVAILABLE INFORMATION, SUBMIT TO THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
21 MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

22 (a) A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CHILD, IF AVAILABLE. THE LAW
23 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A RECENT
24 PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CHILD.

25 (b) THE NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, SEX, RACE, HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND EYE AND
26 HAIR COLOR OF THE CHILD.

27 (c) THE CATEGORY UNDER WHICH THE CHILD IS REPORTED MISSING.

28 3. WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER RECEIVING THE REPORT, PROVIDE TO
29 APPROPRIATE MEDIA OUTLETS AND POST ON THE OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS
30 OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

31 (a) A COMPLETE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CHILD.

32 (b) THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF THE CHILD.

33 (c) A DESCRIPTION OF THE CLOTHING THE CHILD WAS LAST KNOWN TO BE
34 WEARING.

35 (d) CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CHILD IF AVAILABLE.

36 (e) THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER.

37 4. WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE REPORT, ENTER IN THE
38 NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS SYSTEM ALL REQUIRED AND
39 AVAILABLE INFORMATION, INCLUDING, IF AVAILABLE, A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CHILD
40 THAT WAS TAKEN IN THE PREVIOUS ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS AND MEDICAL AND
41 DENTAL RECORDS.

1 ~~2.~~ 5. Not later than thirty days after the original entry of the
2 record, verify and update the record with any additional information,
3 including, ~~where~~ IF available, medical and dental records and a photograph
4 taken during the previous one hundred eighty days.

5 ~~3.~~ 6. Institute or assist with appropriate search and
6 investigative procedures.

7 ~~4.~~ 7. Maintain a close liaison with state and local child welfare
8 systems and the national center for missing and exploited children for the
9 exchange of information and technical assistance in the missing child
10 case.

11 ~~5.~~ 8. Grant permission to the national crime information center
12 terminal contractor for this state to update the missing child record in
13 the national crime information center computer networks with additional
14 information that is learned during the investigation and that relates to
15 the missing child.

16 ~~B. A law enforcement agency that receives a report of a missing,
17 kidnapped or runaway child who is in the foster care system shall notify
18 the national center for missing and exploited children in addition to the
19 entities listed in subsection A of this section.~~

20 ~~C.~~ B. An entry may not be removed from any database or system
21 until the child is found or the case is closed.

22 C. EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THIS STATE SHALL DO BOTH OF THE
23 FOLLOWING:

24 1. DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT AND REGULARLY UPDATE TRAINING CRITERIA
25 REGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION. THE TRAINING SHALL BE
26 COMPREHENSIVE AND SHALL CREATE A SOLID FOUNDATION OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING
27 THE LEGAL CRITERIA AND PROCESSES REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION.

28 2. CONDUCT TRAINING ON THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION FOR ALL
29 EMPLOYEES OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, AT THE TIME OF HIRE AND ONCE
30 EVERY TWO YEARS, WHO HAVE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN MISSING CHILDREN CASES,
31 INCLUDING THE SUPERVISORS OF THESE EMPLOYEES AND COMMUNICATION
32 DISPATCHERS. THE TRAINING SHALL INCLUDE A REVIEW OF ANY DEPARTMENT AND
33 STATE POLICIES REGARDING LOCATING MISSING OR ABDUCTED CHILDREN. THE
34 TRAINING SHALL BE COMPREHENSIVE AND SHALL CREATE A SOLID FOUNDATION OF
35 KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE LEGAL CRITERIA AND PROCESSES REQUIRED BY THIS
36 SECTION.

37 D. INFORMATION PROVIDED TO APPROPRIATE MEDIA OUTLETS AND POSTED ON
38 OFFICIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION A,
39 PARAGRAPH 3 OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT CHARACTERIZE A CHILD AS A RUNAWAY
40 CHILD UNLESS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY DETERMINES THAT THE
41 CHARACTERIZATION OF THE CHILD AS A RUNAWAY CHILD IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT
42 THE CHILD'S SAFETY OR FURTHER AN ACTIVE INVESTIGATION. A LAW ENFORCEMENT
43 AGENCY IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION
44 A, PARAGRAPH 3 OF THIS SECTION IF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY DETERMINES
45 THAT THE INFORMATION WOULD INTERFERE WITH LOCATING A CHILD OR WOULD

1 COMPROMISE THE SAFETY OF A CHILD, AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION OR THE
2 APPREHENSION OF A SUSPECT. A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL DOCUMENT IN
3 ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY'S DOCUMENTATION POLICIES ALL
4 DECISIONS REGARDING THE PROVISION OF THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY
5 SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 3 OF THIS SECTION.

6 Sec. 2. Section 41-1728, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
7 read:

8 41-1728. Seek and find alert notification system;
9 requirements; definitions

10 A. The department shall establish the seek and find alert
11 notification system as a quick response system designed to issue and
12 coordinate alerts following the report of a missing person who has a
13 developmental disability or a cognitive disability, Alzheimer's disease or
14 dementia or is sixty-five years of age or older as described in subsection
15 B of this section.

16 B. On the request of an authorized person at a law enforcement
17 agency that is investigating a report of a missing person who has a
18 developmental disability or a cognitive disability, Alzheimer's disease or
19 dementia or is sixty-five years of age or older, the department shall
20 request an activation of the emergency alert system and issue a seek and
21 find alert immediately, regardless of the missing person's age, if all of
22 the following conditions are met:

23 1. The missing person has a developmental disability or a cognitive
24 disability, Alzheimer's disease or dementia or is sixty-five years of age
25 or older.

26 2. The law enforcement agency investigating the missing person
27 report:

28 (a) Has used all available local resources.

29 (b) Has determined that the person has gone missing under
30 unexplained or suspicious circumstances.

31 (c) Believes that the missing person is in danger because of age,
32 health, mental or physical disability, environment or weather conditions,
33 that the missing person is in the company of a potentially dangerous
34 person or that there are other factors indicating that the missing person
35 may be in peril.

36 3. There is information available that, if disseminated to the
37 public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

38 4. The department has been designated to use the federally
39 authorized emergency alert system for the issuance of seek and find
40 alerts.

41 C. The department shall request an activation of the emergency
42 alert system and issue a seek and find alert immediately pursuant to
43 subsection B of this section. A seek and find alert may not be denied or
44 delayed due to administrative processes, prior missing episodes or

1 discretionary assessments that are unrelated to the immediate risk to the
2 missing person's safety.

3 D. If the department issues a seek and find alert pursuant to this
4 section, the department shall provide the seek and find alert information
5 to any other entity that provides similar notifications in this state.

6 E. All law enforcement agencies in this state shall do all of the
7 following:

8 1. Develop, implement and regularly update training criteria
9 regarding the seek and find alert notification system pursuant to this
10 section. The training shall be comprehensive and shall create a solid
11 foundation of knowledge regarding the legal criteria and processes
12 involved in issuing a timely seek and find alert.

13 2. Conduct seek and find alert notification training for all
14 employees of a law enforcement agency, at the time of hire and **biannually**
15 **ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS**, who have direct involvement in missing person cases,
16 including the supervisors of these employees and communication
17 dispatchers. The training shall include a review of any department and
18 state policies regarding locating missing, abducted or runaway persons,
19 with a specific focus on seek and find alert procedures. The training
20 shall be comprehensive and shall create a solid foundation of knowledge
21 regarding the legal criteria and processes involved in issuing a timely
22 seek and find alert.

23 F. For the purposes of this section:

24 1. "Cognitive disability" has the same meaning prescribed in
25 section 36-551.

26 2. "Developmental disability" has the same meaning prescribed in
27 section 36-551.