



MISSING PERSONS

General Order Number: 16.2
POLICY:

Effective Date: 04-09-2024

It is the policy of the Brookline Police Department to:

1. Ensure that reports of missing persons are promptly recorded, assessed, and investigated.
2. Ensure that responses to calls for missing children shall be given a priority, and that great care shall be exercised in investigating any missing child case, as all missing children must be considered at risk until circumstances prove otherwise.

PROCEDURES:

I. TELEPHONE REPORT

- A.** If a report of a missing person is received over the telephone, the officer receiving the report should explain that the procedures of the Department require personal submission of a missing person report, unless an immediate emergency exists, and that an officer shall be dispatched to the reporting party's residence. If the reporting party resides out of state the report may be taken over the telephone. Every effort must be made to verify the legitimacy of a report taken over the telephone. Contact with the police department in the community of the reporting person should be made, if possible, for verification.

A MISSING PERSON REPORT FORM IS TO BE COMPLETED WHENEVER A PERSON IS REPORTED MISSING.

- B.** In addition, an officer receiving a report of a missing person shall take and record the following information on the departmental form (see attached).
 1. A description of the missing person, including name, age, sex, physical description, and description of clothing;
 2. Whether the person is mentally, cognitively or physically impaired and whether they require any medications. If medications are required, the type, frequency, and last administration should be ascertained, if possible;
 3. The time and place at which the missing person was last seen, anyone who may be accompanying the missing person, and any likely destination to which the missing person may be going;

4. The name and address of the caller, and;
 5. The relationship between the caller and the person reported missing.
- C. If the telephone report concerns a missing child, the officer also shall inquire:
1. Whether the child's absence is a significant deviation from established patterns of behavior and cannot be explained; has the child ever run away from home before etc. **GREAT CAUTION MUST BE EXERCISED BEFORE CLASSIFYING A CHILD AS VOLUNTARILY MISSING.**
 2. Whether the child is believed to be with adults, including parents and other relatives, who may endanger the welfare of the child.
- D. Upon receipt of a report of a missing child, the officer dispatched to the residence or other location where the report originated shall, as soon as possible, begin the follow-up investigation. If the reporting party is not the child's parent, an attempt shall be made to notify the parents as soon as possible.

A missing person report form shall be completed. Copies shall be made and:

1. The original shall be submitted in the same manner as other investigative reports.
2. A copy is to be placed in the Active Missing Person CJIS file.
3. A copy shall be forwarded to the Detective Division / Juvenile Unit

II. EMERGENCY CASES: Upon receipt of the necessary information in emergency cases over the telephone, or in the form of a completed report filed by a patrol officer, the Dispatcher shall prepare the missing person report for data entry. Enter the necessary information into the CJIS computer system **forthwith**, (refer to NCIC and CJIS manuals for entry format and procedure), and record the NCIC, CJIS and OCA numbers in the missing person report, signing the same.

A. IN THE CASE OF A MISSING CHILD, WHENEVER A PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR GOVERNMENTAL UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR A CHILD REPORTS THE CHILD MISSING, POLICE OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW IMMEDIATELY TO:

1. Act immediately to locate the missing child in accordance with MGL. C22a, §4.
2. Notify the child's last known public or private school (see section 4h of this policy.)

3. Cause to be entered into CJIS/NCIC the relevant information concerning the child, defined under 42 U.S.C. §5780 as under the age of 21
- B.** In the event that the computer is "down" the appropriate entries shall be made as soon as possible.
- C.** Officers receiving the report are to determine if the missing person is a court committed or a voluntary patient of a psychiatric facility and shall inquire if the person is considered to be dangerous to themselves or others.

III. DISSEMINATION OF MISSING PERSON INFORMATION

- A. CJIS Entry:** The dispatcher shall enter the missing person into the CJIS Missing Persons database. If appropriate, an administrative message may also be sent regarding the missing person.
1. Missing Person Under 18: Immediately upon notification of the incident by the reporting party, even if a written report has not yet been completed.
 2. Missing Person 18 or Older: Immediately once a missing person report has been completed and signed by the reporting party.
- B.** The dispatcher shall broadcast to all personnel on duty all information necessary for the recognition and identification of the missing person.
- C.** If appropriate, the dispatcher may broadcast the missing person information to other Town agencies (DPW, Fire Dept. etc.) The Dispatcher shall broadcast to all personnel on duty that information necessary for the recognition and identification of the missing person as well as any immediate medical or hazardous conditions.

IV. ACTIVATION OF AN ALERT SYSTEM NOTIFICATION

- A. Criteria for Alert:** The AMBER alert system may be activated providing:
- a. The child is age 17 or younger; a Silver Alert, originally intended for elders, has been redefined to become available for anyone over the age of 17. A Silver Alert can be activated through the Mass State Police by contacting Media Relations.
 - b. The police believe the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death; and
 - c. There is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor, and/or the suspect's vehicle to believe the immediate broadcast alert will help.
- B. An Amber Alert is not appropriate in cases where:**
- a. No foul play is suspected
 - b. The child is a runaway
 - c. The child is missing as a result of a custodial dispute and the child is not considered to be at risk of bodily harm or death

- d. An adult is missing
- C. A supervisor may authorize a request for an Amber Alert
- a. The request shall be reviewed by a supervisor to ensure that, in the supervisor's opinion, the criteria for such an activation request have been met and that such an activation is necessary. The request shall be made either:
 - i. Orally by telephone by calling the State Police Communications Section 508-820-2121 or
 - ii. By faxing an AMBER Alert request to the State Police Media Relations at 508-820-2150.
 - b. The request will be screened by a State Police AMBER Alert Activation Officer. The supervisor shall be prepared to confirm the information with the State Police AMBER Alert Activation Officer.
 - c. Termination: The State Police Communication Section shall be notified immediately in the event that the child is found or recovered, or if the circumstances no longer meet the activation criteria.

V. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION:

- A.** The preliminary investigation of cases involving missing persons shall be the responsibility of the patrol division.
- B.** If the preliminary investigation fails to locate the missing person, the supervisor and Detective Division are to be notified forthwith regardless of the age of the missing person.

The investigating officer should, whenever possible, interview the person who initiated the report to verify information already available and to obtain further facts which may be helpful, including the following information.

1. Whether the person is drug dependent (prescribed medication, or user's habit);
2. The reason for any delay in reporting the person missing;
3. In the case of a child, school attending and, if relevant, person who was supposed to pick up the child;
4. The extent of any search already performed by the caller or other parties, including a list of friends, co-workers and associates who have been contacted and a list of any who have not been reached;
5. Details regarding any known mental, emotional or physical impairment of the

missing person whether he or she requires any medications; if medications are required, the type, frequency and last administration should be ascertained, if possible;

6. A fully detailed description of the missing person;
 7. Whether the person has ever been reported missing on previous occasions; if so the circumstances and where found;
 8. Other information that may be useful in locating the person (for example, particular habits or personal interests, places frequented, location of out-of-town relatives or friends, etc.) and determining whether the person is a potential victim of foul play.
 9. In the case of a missing child, a check should be made of the last place the child was reportedly seen, including interviews of individuals who were present at the actual scene of the disappearance, as well as friends' houses, playgrounds, place of employment, and other places frequented by the child, as well as local hospitals.
 10. Where appropriate, department records should be consulted for any further information about the missing person.
- C. In the case of a missing child, parental consent to a search of the house for the child should be obtained and such a search should be conducted immediately.
- D. A photograph of the missing person always should be obtained, if available. Such photograph, with an accompanying description, should be attached to the missing person's report where it may be viewed by any officer. Written permission should be obtained from the family prior to disseminating such information to agencies or individuals, other than law enforcement, outside of the department.
- E. A detailed description of the missing person shall be broadcast to all patrol cars by the investigating officer.
- F. The officers assigned should conduct a preliminary investigation as described above in an attempt to locate the individual. When it becomes apparent that the person cannot be located, a more detailed investigation and/or search should be conducted.
- G. In any case where it appears that the missing person may not be found locally or when the preliminary investigation is unsuccessful, the investigating officer shall order notification of the following agencies and data bases, if not previously notified: local police departments, Boston Police Missing Persons Unit, CJIS, NCIC. In cases of apparent stranger abductions, the FBI should be contacted.
- H. **NOTIFICATION TO SCHOOL DEPARTMENT:** Upon the receipt of a report of a missing child, the Detective Division / Juvenile Unit shall contact the last known

elementary or secondary school, whether public or private of which child had been enrolled. This notification will act as a flag to the school department to notify the police department of any requests for school records from other schools to which the child may enroll. If child has been located, the school will be notified of the return by the Detective Division / Juvenile Unit. (Mass. Gen. Law, Chap.22A, Sec. 9).

In addition to the school department, the Town Clerk will also be notified as to flag any requests for the child's birth certificate or other pertinent records.

V. CONTINUED INVESTIGATION:

- A.** The second phase of the investigation of a missing person case is the intensive investigation and is the responsibility of the Detective Division. As the case is new and the trail is as fresh as it can ever be, investigators need to pursue actively whatever leads are available.
- B.** In all cases of a missing person, regardless of the age, the investigating officer should request from the parent, legal guardian or reporting entity:
 - 1. Written authorization for the release of medical and dental records (required by law in the case of a missing child, (Mass. Gen Law, Chap. 22A, Sec. 6), as well as a copy of such records; and
 - 2. A copy of the missing person's fingerprints, if available.

- C. Each kind of missing child case requires a suitable follow-up by police. Whenever a child is reported missing by a parent, guardian, or governmental unit responsible for the child, the law requires that police immediately undertake to locate the child (Mass. Gen. Law, Chap. 22A, Sec. 4).
- D. **GREAT CAUTION MUST BE EXERCISED BEFORE CLASSIFYING A CHILD AS MISSING.**

VI. MISSING CHILD:

- A. **A VOLUNTARY (RUN AWAY) MISSING CASE:** Investigation focuses on the family, friends, school, and lifestyle of the missing youth. Survival resources that the youth may have should be considered. In determining whether a child is voluntarily missing, officers should consider whether the child took any items to which he or she has a particular sentimental attachment. Other units in the department and nearby jurisdictions should be informed of the case and provided with pictures of the missing youth. The officer should instruct the parent to secure a CRA warrant from the juvenile court as soon as possible to aid in recovery of the child. Any indication of neglect or abuse in the family should be considered and, upon recovery of the missing child, appropriate follow-up action should be taken by the investigating officer, including filing a report with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) under Mass. Gen. Law, Chap. 119, Sec. 51A
- B. **A PARENTAL KIDNAPING CASE:** Requires a thorough investigation as the abducting parent is in violation of the law (Mass. Gen. Law, Chap. 265, Sec. 26A), and the child abducted by a parent may be in serious danger. The investigation focuses on the abductor parent, his or her friends and relatives, and on the needs of the child for public services, such as education, health care, and childcare. A thorough check of bank records, employment, labor unions, credit bureaus, and the Federal Parent Locator Service should be made in an attempt to locate the abductor. If friends or relatives are thought to be in contact with the abductor through the mail, the postal inspector's office may be asked to place a "cover" on that individual's mail. When sufficient supporting data is provided, criminal charges should be filed against the abductor parent and an arrest warrant obtained. The District Attorney's office should be notified in parental kidnapping cases to expedite court procedures. In certain cases, the District Attorney's office may seek a federal Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution (UFAP) warrant through the United States Attorney's office.
- C. **ABDUCTION CASES:** require that the child be considered in extreme danger and are therefore subject to mobilization of every available resource of the investigating agency. A command post (CP) may be established away from the child's house. An officer may be stationed at the house to maintain communication between the CP and the parents in the event that the child is found or returns home. If the child is found seriously hurt or dead, the officer at the home should be informed discreetly. The search for an abducted child has two

purposes: (1) primarily, to find the child and ensure his or her safety, and (2) secondarily, to identify, locate, and apprehend the perpetrator and build a case that will result in his or her conviction in a criminal court. The District Attorney's office and the State Police Missing Person Unit should be notified in all abduction cases. The FBI also should be informed of the abduction.

D. UNKNOWN MISSING CASES: should be investigated using all of the techniques discussed in the other three cases categories. A child who is missing due to unknown causes should be assumed to be in extreme danger until facts emerge indicating otherwise. An immediate investigation should be conducted and is required by law in the case of a missing child (Mass. Gen. Law, Chap. 22A, Sec. 4). There should be no waiting period established before taking action. If any unusual circumstances are present, a command post may be set up and an extensive search and investigation conducted.

1. The District Attorney's office and the State Police Missing Persons Unit should be notified in any case in which their resources may be helpful.
2. If the investigating officer determines that the aid of outside agencies or special equipment will be helpful, a request for these services shall be made after consultation with the officer-in-charge.
3. Notification of the general public through any of the news media can be valuable in locating a missing person. A decision to use such facilities shall be made after approval by the Chief of Police and consultation with the family of the missing person.
4. Officers assigned to a missing person case should maintain contact with family members and frequently report the status of the investigation.

VII. SPECIAL POPULATIONS –

A. Alzheimer's Disease or other Cognitive Impairment (CI)

1. When a person with Alzheimer's **or other cognitive impairment** is reported missing, an investigation shall be initiated immediately as such persons are considered at risk. A rapid and escalating search strategy is required as 50 percent of those not located within 24 hours will be found dead.
2. Deficits in memory, executive function, and judgment in people with AD or CI can result in an inability to be aware of their surroundings or to find their way in even familiar places or to remember their names or address. They may have a tendency to make judgment errors that cause them to enter unsafe situations that may lead to injury or death. The previously recognizable uniform of a police officer may now be unrecognizable, and individuals may not seek their help or recognize an officer as a helpful individual.

3. Individuals with AD or CI may behave very differently after becoming lost. The most striking differences are:
 - They do not ask for help, often not even realizing that they are lost;
 - They do not respond to searchers, even those who are in close proximity and calling their names;
 - Some will seclude or hide themselves and remain secluded until they are found or die of exposure;
 - There is an inability to problem solve even in the most familiar environments; and
 - When found, they will often act as if nothing is wrong and will attempt to hide the fact that they are lost or confused.
4. Almost 90 percent of individuals with AD or CI will be found within a 5 mile radius of the place last seen. 40 percent are found within a one mile radius of the place last seen.
5. The locations where individuals with AD or CI are most often found are:
 - Their own neighborhoods
 - Standing, sitting, or walking down streets or highways
 - In businesses; and
 - In health-care institutions
6. There is a tendency for some individuals with AD or CI to seclude themselves in unpredictable and dangerous ways, and in areas that would be unusual for an older adult to go. These areas may include:
 - Woods
 - Fields
 - Ditches
 - Ravines
 - Parks
 - Abandoned structures
 - Roofs
 - Closets

Once in these locations, individuals may further conceal themselves by crawling into tight spaces of cover such as bushes in natural areas or vents in building structures. It is critical to include these areas in a comprehensive search strategy.

7. The most effective search strategy by far is searching on foot: research has demonstrated that the large majority of these individuals are found by a walking “Good Samaritan” or searcher.
8. The initial search should extend one mile from the place last seen. In particular, all accessible areas within a one mile radius should be searched,

with most areas requiring a rapid foot search. This includes around nearby houses: inside easily accessible buildings; and a quick search of streets, highways, and footpaths.

9. Officers should ensure that a familiar person will be in the residence in the event of a successful find or return and that the primary caregiver can be reached by phone during the search.
10. A community notification should be considered early in the search.
11. Some individuals will become lost while driving. Unlike those who walk away, these individuals can be found quite far from home. Fewer than one-third of these individuals are found within 25 miles of the place last seen. As much information regarding the vehicle, last known destination, and areas frequented should be obtained. Surrounding communities should be notified immediately and all relevant information broadcast via BAPERN.
12. The dispatcher shall telephone *Safe Return* at 1-800-572-1122. *Safe Return* is a national Alzheimer registry available to law enforcement to help resolve lost elder cases. The Alzheimer's Association operates *Safe Return* twenty-four hours per day. It will issue an alert to area police departments, hospitals, shelters, and elder service agencies and will follow up with the missing person's caregivers. The Dispatcher shall notify *Safe Return* when the person is located.
13. Upon notification of a missing individual, officers on the scene or the dispatcher taking the call should inquire if the missing individual is enrolled in the **SafetyNet by Lojack** Program. Dispatch will enter the person's name and six digit frequency ID number (if available) into the **SafetyNet by Lojack** Client Management System. Dispatch should inquire as to the last place the individual was seen, when they were last seen and a call back number for the caller. Officers who have been trained in the use of the equipment will then utilize the digital **SafetyNet** Search and Rescue Receivers to track the radio signal emitted from the client's **SafetyNet** bracelet. Assistance from the Norfolk County Sheriff's Department may be requested by calling **1-866-837-3488**. A fifteen person search and rescue team can be activated 24 hours a day. Although this team is a component of the **SafetyNet Program**, they can also be called to assist in search and rescue efforts for missing persons not enrolled in the program. Both the Boston Police and the MBTA Police possess the **SafetyNet** equipment and have officers trained in its use. They should be contacted immediately if their assistance is needed. The **SafetyNet** Database can be accessed to obtain a recent photo of the missing person and pertinent information on past wandering episodes.

B. Autism Spectrum Disorders and other Developmental Disorders

1. A leading cause for concern is children or adults who have Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) or other developmental disorders that increase their likelihood to elope or wander from parents and caregivers. Due to the challenges facing individuals with ASD or developmental disorders, these should be considered true emergencies and search efforts should be initiated immediately.
2. If an individual with ASD or developmental disorder is reported missing, the officer on scene or dispatcher taking the call should obtain the following information from the parent or caregiver:
 - Name, date of birth, physical description, clothing etc.
 - Recent photograph
 - Sensory, medical or dietary issues and requirements, if any
 - Method of communication: Verbal, uses sign language, picture boards, or written words
 - Likes and dislikes – approach and de-escalation techniques
 - Any atypical behaviors or characteristics that may attract attention
 - Favorite attractions and locations where they may be found
 - ID tags, jewelry, or printed handout cards that may on the person.

Officers should check with the caregiver and/or in Sharepoint to see whether the individual has a “Special Considerations Form” on file with the Department, and should check to see whether the information on file is still accurate.

3. Considerations when conducting a search:
 - Children and adults with ASD or developmental disorders are often attracted to water sources such as pools, ponds, lakes and drains. This should be taken into consideration when formulating a search plan. Inquire from the parents or caregivers if there are nearby pools or natural bodies of water that may attract the missing person.
 - People with ASD or developmental disorders may lack an awareness of danger and may inadvertently place themselves in high risk situations.
 - People with ASD or developmental disorders may not respond to their name being called.
 - People with ASD or developmental disorders may not recognize or respond to a uniform, badge, or emergency response symbol.

4. Officers should be familiar with some common attributes of people with ASD, while keeping in mind the adage, “If you’ve met one person with Autism, you’ve met ONE person with Autism.” The following should be taken into consideration upon making contact with an autistic person or person with related developmental disorders. These individuals may:
 - **Avoid eye contact.** Do not insist on eye contact or take it as a sign of disrespect.
 - **Make repetitive motion or sounds.** Making repeated sounds or motion may be a sign of distress, but may also be a means of providing securing comfort. Questions you ask may be repeated back to you and the individual may hum to themselves. Motions may include spinning, rocking, and hand flapping. Officers should not attempt to stop these behaviors unless they pose an immediate threat of the safety of that individual or the general public.
 - **Personal space.** Some individuals may have a diminished sense of personal space and may stand closer to you than is typically acceptable.
 - **Unusual tone of voice.** Some individuals may speak in a monotone voice that may not demonstrate the appropriate level of fear or anger for the situation. They may also be inappropriately loud or soft-spoken for the situation and may interrupt or talk over others.
 - **Become upset when touched.** Avoid touching if possible. If you need to have physical contact, explain what you are doing and why in simple, direct language.
 - **Not provide ID when asked.** Be patient and speak slowly and calmly. Keep questions simple and allow time for answers. The person may not be able to speak. Check for ID jewelry or an ID card, possibly sewn onto the person’s clothing.
 - **Continue to do something after being told to stop.** Demonstrative, non-threatening gestures may communicate more effectively than verbal commands. Use a sign board/PEX cards if possible. Demonstrate what you want the person to do. Repeat the behaviors and instructions.
 - **Appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.** These individual’s actions can appear to be odd or inappropriate. Avoid making assumptions about alcohol or drug use.

- **Become self-injurious.** Under stress, an individual may become self-injurious. Use the least invasive technique possible to ensure the individual's safety.
 - **Become aggressive.** Restraints should only be used if the individual's or others safety is at risk. These individuals may have poorly developed muscles in the upper trunk area. Positional asphyxia could occur so it is critical to ensure that a prone position is not used and the person is moved to a secure and quiet place away from distractions, as soon as possible. De-escalation techniques to calm or distract the person are safer and more effective.
5. Officers on scene or dispatchers taking the call should inquire if the missing individual is enrolled in the **SafetyNet by Lojack** Program. If they are enrolled in the program, the same protocol for activating the system should be followed as is listed for missing persons who have Alzheimer's disease or other Cognitive Impairment (see above). Furthermore *Special Consideration Form* folder in SharePoint contains information voluntarily supplied by caregivers regarding individuals with Autism Spectrum or related disorders, containing pertinent characteristics, a current photograph and emergency contact information. All officers should have access to this information at all times.

C. CHILDREN IN DCF CARE OR CUSTODY: When a child in DCF care or custody is located, the first step is to notify DCF. If program is unable to pick up the runaway, the officer, in consultation with the probation officer, shall then immediately make all reasonable diversion efforts so that such child is delivered to the following types of placements, and in the following order of preference:

1. To one of the child's parents, or to the child's guardian or other responsible person known to the child, or to the child's legal custodian including the department of children and families or the child's foster home upon the written promise, without surety, of the person to whose custody the child is released that such parent, guardian, person or custodian will bring the child to the court on the next court date;
2. Forthwith and with all reasonable speed take the child directly and without first being taken to the police station house, to a temporary shelter facility licensed or approved by the department of early education and care, a shelter home approved by a temporary shelter facility licensed or approved by said department of early education and care or a family foster care home approved by a placement agency licensed or approved by said department of early education and care; or
3. Take the child directly to the juvenile court in which the act providing the reason to take the child into custodial protection occurred if the officer affirms

on the record that the officer attempted to exercise the options identified in clauses 1 and 2 was unable to exercise these options and the reasons for such inability.

A child in custodial protection may not be confined in shackles or similar restraints or in a court lockup facility in connection with any proceedings under sections 39E to 39I, inclusive. A child who is the subject of an application for assistance shall not be placed in a locked facility or a facility designated or operated for juveniles who are alleged to be delinquent or who have been adjudicated delinquent. Such child may, however, be placed in a facility which operates as a group home to provide therapeutic care for juveniles, regardless of whether juveniles adjudicated delinquent are also provided care in such facility.

Notwithstanding the foregoing requirements for placement, any such child who is taken into custodial protection shall, if necessary, be taken to a medical facility for treatment or observation.

VIII. RECOVERY OF MISSING PERSON:

- A.** Whenever a missing person is located, officers shall ensure that medical attention is provided, if required.
- B.** When officers locate an adult missing person, the party originating the report shall be immediately notified of the status of the missing person, bearing in mind the missing person's right to privacy.
- C.** When a missing child is found, the parent or legal guardian shall be notified at once and arrangements made to return the child to their home. If the parent or guardian is unavailable DCF shall be notified in an effort to provide temporary custody for the child.
- D.** Whenever a missing person has been located, the Commanding Officer shall order notification of all of the agencies and data bases which had been contacted previously (Detective Division, Local Departments, State Police, CJIS, NCIC and FBI). In addition, the Missing Person Form shall be noted as to:
 - 1.** Date and time located,
 - 2.** Officer making report,
 - 3.** Person reporting return or location,
 - 4.** Place located,
 - 5.** Shall be removed from the active file in the Active Missing Persons folder and placed in the records drawer with the NCIC locate attached to it.

- 6.** A copy shall then be submitted to the Detective Division.
- E.** All missing persons shall be questioned, if possible and appropriate, as to their whereabouts and activities. Police should determine whether the missing person was the victim of any crime during the period of absence. Eliciting a full account of the missing person's whereabouts is essential to future corroboration of the missing person's story.
- F.** Officers locating a missing person shall file a report detailing the circumstances surrounding the finding of the person and any particular difficulties encountered (for example, reluctance or refusal to return home) should be noted, as this may signal neglect or abuse in the family. If there is any indication of neglect or abuse of a child, the Juvenile Unit shall be contacted and a Mass. Gen. Law, Chap. 119, Sec. 51A report shall be filed with DCF. Any other appropriate follow-up action, including the filing of criminal charges, should be taken under the guidance of the Juvenile Unit.
- G.** If a missing person is found deceased, the procedures outlined in Mass. Gen. Law, Chap. 38 Sec. 6, requiring notification of the Medical Examiner and the District Attorney or their representative should be followed. If the deceased is not identified, police also should act to ensure that the Medical Examiner notifies the Department of Public Safety (Missing Persons Unit) and furnishes other identifying data, in compliance with the requirements of Mass. Gen. Law, Chap. 22A, Sec. 5. A search of the NCIC unidentified Missing Person's file should also be undertaken.