

	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE <small>State Form 39870 (R/S-06)</small>	Reference Number CIS-005
	Subject AMBER/Silver/Blue Alert Procedures	
	Special Instructions Replaces CJD-010 dated December 9, 2011	Effective Date July 5, 2019

I. PURPOSE

Establish guidelines for the activation of an AMBER, Silver, or Blue Alert and for the release of information, regarding abductions and/or certain categories of missing persons, to the media and the public.

II. POLICY

The Department shall be responsible to evaluate and make available for broadcast all valid AMBER, Silver, and Blue Alerts and shall serve as the repository for information from the Indiana Clearinghouse for Information on Missing Children and Missing Endangered Adults.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. AMBER Alert (America’s Missing Broadcast Emergency Response Alert) – Release of information for repeated public broadcasts of child abductions, as defined in [IC 10-13-5-1](#).

B. Blue Alert –A program used to transmit information about a law enforcement officer (LEO) who has been killed, seriously injured, or is missing in the line of duty and information on a possible suspect(s), as defined in [IC 10-13-8](#).

C. INDIANA CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION ON MISSING CHILDREN AND MISSING ENDANGERED ADULTS – Maintained within the Department as a repository for information on missing children and missing endangered adults, as established in [10-13-5-5](#). Responsible for the activation and cancellation of AMBER, Silver, and Blue Alerts, within the State of Indiana.

D. INDIANA INTELLIGENCE FUSION CENTER (IIFC) – IIFC provides a 24/7 centralized, comprehensive, multi-agency information and intelligence sharing network in order to enhance the operational effectiveness and efficiency of all Indiana public safety agencies involved in crime prevention and Homeland Security.

E. HIGH RISK MISSING PERSON – A person whose whereabouts are not known and who may be at risk of injury or death. Refer to [IC 5-2-17-1](#) for additional descriptors.

F. MISSING CHILD – As defined in [IC 10-13-5-4](#): Any person under 18 years of age who:

1. Is or is believed to be, a temporary or permanent resident of Indiana:
2. Is at a location that cannot be determined by the person’s parent or legal custodian:
3. Has been reported missing to a law enforcement agency: and

4. Is a victim of the offense of criminal confinement ([IC 35-42-3-3](#)) or interference with custody ([IC 35-42-3-4](#)).

G. MISSING ENDANGERED CHILD - As defined in [IC 10-13-5-4.4](#): is a missing child who is believed to be incapable of returning to the missing child's residence without assistance because of:

1. Mental illness;
2. Intellectual disability; or
3. Another physical or mental disability

H. MISSING ENDANGERED ADULT - As defined in [IC 12-7-2-131.3](#): is an individual at least eighteen (18) years of age who is reported missing to a law enforcement agency and is, or is believed to be:

1. A temporary or permanent resident of Indiana;
2. At a location that cannot be determined by an individual familiar with the missing individual: and
3. Incapable of returning to the missing's individual's residence without assistance by reason of:
 - a. Mental illness;
 - b. Intellectual disability;
 - c. Dementia; or
 - d. Another physical or mental incapacity of managing or directing the management of the individual's property or providing or directing of self-care.

I. SILVER ALERT – Release of information for repeated public broadcasts regarding Missing Endangered Adults, Missing Endangered Children or High Risk Missing Persons.

IV. AMBER ALERT

A. **An AMBER Alert may be approved** only when the following criteria are met:

1. The child must be under 18 years of age;
2. The child must be believed to be abducted **AND** in danger of serious bodily harm or death;
3. There must be enough descriptive information to believe the broadcast will help;
4. Requests must be recommended by the law enforcement agency (LEA) of jurisdiction; and
5. Enter the missing child into the IDACS/NCIC databases as an Endangered Missing Person (EME).

V. SILVER ALERT

A. **A Silver Alert may be approved** only when the following criteria are met:

1. The person must be a Missing Endangered Adult, Missing Endangered Child, High Risk Missing Person or have a mental impairment validated through a credible medical authority.

- a. The credible medical authority shall be a Physician, Physician's Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner who shall confirm at least one of the following:
 - Due to mental impairment, the individual cannot find his or her way back to their residence without assistance from law enforcement.
 - Due to physical or mental impairment, or lack of medication, this individual could be a danger to themselves or others.
 - Due to physical or mental impairment, or lack of medication, this individual if driving could be a danger to themselves or others.
3. There must be enough descriptive information to believe the broadcast will help.
4. Requests must be recommended by the law enforcement agency (LEA) of jurisdiction.
5. Enter the missing person into the IDACS/NCIC databases as an Endangered Missing Person (EME).

VI. BLUE ALERT

A. A **Blue Alert may be approved** only when the following criteria are met:

1. The victim is a law enforcement officer (LEO);
2. The LEO is missing or has been seriously injured, or killed in the line of duty;
3. The suspect(s) in the case have not been apprehended, the suspect's exact location is unknown, and the suspect poses an imminent threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel;
4. A detailed description of the suspect(s), any available images, and any vehicle believed to be in the suspect's possession (to include license plate number, make, and model of the vehicle) must be available for broadcast to the public; and
5. The lead law enforcement agency or agency of jurisdiction must request the issuance of a Blue Alert.

VII. PROCESSING PROCEDURES for an AMBER, SILVER or BLUE ALERT

A. All requests for AMBER, Silver, or Blue Alerts shall be received:

1. By telephone, through the Clearinghouse;
2. Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center; or
3. Completion of appropriate alert request web form.

B. The Clearinghouse or Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center (IIFC) shall:

1. Obtain all preliminary information during the initial contact;
2. Contact the Program Director;

C. The Program Director shall:

1. Make telephone contact with the reporting LEA to obtain necessary information;
2. If criteria is met, request the LEA to complete the appropriate alert request web form on the Clearinghouse website. The alert will be initiated upon receipt of all necessary information.

3. If criteria has not been met or the request is denied, assist the LEA in determining what follow-up is necessary to meet the criteria. Offer additional resources via the Department and IIFC.

4. Advise the appropriate command personnel that an alert has been initiated or cancelled.

VIII. CANCELLATION PROCEDURES for an AMBER, SILVER and BLUE ALERT

A. An Alert shall be cancelled only upon the request of the reporting agency to the Clearinghouse and with the authorization of the Program Director.

B. This procedure is to be used in conjunction with all relevant Department regulations, rules, policies, and procedures.