Support Agencies

California Highway Patrol

(800) TELL-CHP (835-5247) www.chp.ca.gov

• Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ENTAC) (916) 657-8287

E-mail: erchq@chp.ca.gov

Dialing 911 from any cellular phone in California will connect you to the nearest CHP dispatch center.

Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES)

www.oes.ca.gov

The OES Warning Center can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at: (800) 421-2921 or (916) 845-8911

 EDIS Program www.edis.ca.gov (916) 845-8610

E-mail: info@edis.oes.ca.gov

• FCC Emergency Alert System (EAS) Rules www.fcc.gov

Office of the Attorney General California Department of Justice

www.ag.ca.gov

Command Center
 (916) 227-3244 (including after-hour emergencies)

 Violent Crime Information Center (916) 227-3280

• Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit

www.ag.ca.gov/missing

(916) 227-3290 (24 hour) Fax: (916) 227-3270

E-mail: missing.persons@doj.ca.gov

24 hour Hotline (800) 222-FIND (222-3463)

TRAK: (916) 227-2761

 Investigative Services Program (916) 227-4736

Office of the Attorney General California Department of Justice continued

 Sex Offender Tracking Program (916) 227-3288

• Sexual Predator Apprehension Teams (SPAT)

Office hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (after hours, please contact the DOJ Command Center)

Sacramento: (916) 464-2001
Redding: (530) 225-2830
San Francisco: (415) 351-3374

Fresno: (559) 457-5030
Los Angeles: (323) 869-3400
San Diego: (858) 268-5400
Orange: (714) 558-4183

• Riverside: (909) 782-4313

• Office of Victim Services (877) 433-9069 (toll free)

 Crime and Violence Prevention Center www.ag.ca.gov/cvpc

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Los Angeles: (310) 477-6565
Sacramento: (916) 481-9110
San Diego: (619) 514-5500
San Francisco: (415) 553-2000

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

(800) THE LOST (843-5678) www.missingkids.com

Technology to Recover Abducted Kids (TRAK)

(800) 724-8725 www.trak.org

Statutory References

BILL NUMBER: AB 415 CHAPTERED

BILL TEXT

CHAPTER 517

FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE SEPTEMBER 13, 2002

APPROVED BY GOVERNOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2002

PASSED THE ASSEMBLY AUGUST 22, 2002

PASSED THE SENATE AUGUST 21, 2002

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 19, 2002

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 7, 2002

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 5, 2002

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 27, 2002

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 18, 2002

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 26, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 16, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 30, 2001

INTRODUCED BY Assembly Members Runner and Maddox

(Principal coauthor: Senator McPherson)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bates, Hollingsworth, La Suer, and Pescetti)

FEBRUARY 20, 2001

An act to add Section 8594 to the Government Code, relating to emergency services, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 415, Runner. Emergency services: Emergency Alert System. Existing law authorizes use of the Emergency Alert System to inform the public of local, state, and national emergencies. This bill would require law enforcement agencies that are informed of the abduction of a child 17 years of age or younger, or an individual with a proven mental or physical disability, and that determine the victim is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death and that there is information available that, if disseminated to the general public, could assist with the safe recovery of the victim, to request, absent extenuating investigative needs, activation of the Emergency Alert System within the appropriate local area. By imposing new duties on local law enforcement agencies, the bill would create a state-mandated local program. This bill would require the California Highway Patrol, in consultation with the Department of Justice and representatives from other organizations, to develop policies and procedures providing

instruction specifying how law enforcement agencies, broadcasters participating in the Emergency Alert System, and any other intermediate emergency services agencies that may institute activation of the Emergency Alert System and, where appropriate, other supplemental warning systems shall proceed after a qualifying abduction has been reported to a law enforcement agency.

The bill would require the California Highway Patrol, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, to develop a comprehensive child abduction education program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000. This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO FNACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

- (a) In the year 2000, the California Missing and Unidentified Persons System reflected that there were 695 child abduction cases that involved a stranger abduction or suspicious circumstances that may have indicated a stranger abduction. In Los Angeles County alone, there were 84 child abduction cases that involved a stranger abduction or suspicious circumstances that may have indicated a stranger abduction.
- (b) It is essential to utilize maximum public participation to recover children in the most serious child abduction situations.
- (c) In child abduction circumstances, law enforcement has information available to disseminate to the general public, that could assist in the safe recovery of the victim, the apprehension of the suspect, or both.
- (d) The Amber Plan, first created in Dallas, Texas after the murder of Amber Hagerman, a 9-year-old girl who was abducted in 1996 from her home in Arlington, Texas, makes the Emergency Alert System available for use by law enforcement officials to alert the general public when a child has been abducted and is believed to be in danger.
- (e) The goal of the Amber Plan is to coordinate the services of government, law enforcement, and broadcasting agencies in an effort to expedite the recovery of abducted children by coercing the kidnapper to release the child for fear of being caught.
- (f) The Amber Plan requires law enforcement to meet certain criteria when evaluating a child abduction before an activation can occur. Therefore, the Amber Plan is not activated for every abduction or custody dispute.
- (g) Tragedies, such as those concerning Polly Klaas and Amber Swartz, inspired the Chiefs of Police and the Sheriff's Association of Orange County and Attorney General Bill Lockyer's Office

of Victim's Services to develop the Child Abduction Regional Emergency (C.A.R.E.) Alert Program, modeled after the Amber Plan, as a pilot project in Orange County.

- (h) The goal of the C.A.R.E. Alert Program is the safe return of an abducted child by establishing an effective partnership between the community, the media, and law enforcement. A C.A.R.E. alert is the recruitment, via a widespread media alert, of public assistance to locate a child.
- (i) The Governor and the California Highway Patrol, in consultation with the Department of Justice, shall implement the use of the Emergency Alert System and other current warning systems in use and establish them statewide so that the statewide system resembles the Amber Plan, Texas' early-warning system to respond to child kidnappings.
- SEC. 2. Section 8594 is added to the Government Code, to read:
- 8594. (a) If an abduction has been reported to a law enforcement agency and the agency determines that a child 17 years of age or younger, or an individual with a proven mental or physical disability, has been abducted and is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death, and there is information available that, if disseminated to the general public, could assist in the safe recovery of the victim, the agency, through a person authorized to activate the Emergency Alert System, shall, absent extenuating investigative needs, request activation of the Emergency Alert System within the appropriate local area. Law enforcement agencies shall only request activation of the Emergency Alert System for an abduction if these requirements are met. The Emergency Alert System is not intended to be used for abductions resulting from custody disputes that are not reasonably believed to endanger the life or physical health of a child.

The California Highway Patrol, if requested by a law enforcement agency, shall activate the system.

- (b) The California Highway Patrol, in consultation with the Department of Justice, as well as a representative from the California State Sheriffs' Association, the California Police Chiefs' Association, and the California Peace Officers' Association, shall develop policies and procedures providing instruction specifying how law enforcement agencies, broadcasters participating in the Emergency Alert System, and any other intermediate emergency agencies that may institute activation of the Emergency Alert System, and, where appropriate, other supplemental warning systems, shall proceed after a qualifying abduction has been reported to a law enforcement agency. Those policies and procedures shall include, but not be limited to:
- (1) Procedures for transfer of information regarding the abducted victim and abduction from the law enforcement agency to the broadcasters;
- (2) Specification of the event code or codes that should be used if the Emergency Alert System is activated to report a qualifying child abduction;
 - (3) Recommended language for an abduction alert;
- (4) Specification of information that must be included by the reporting law enforcement agency, including which agency a person with information relating to the abduction should contact and how the person should contact the agency; and
- (5) Recommendations on the extent of the geographical area to which a child abduction emergency alert should be broadcast.

- (c) The California Highway Patrol, in consultation with the Department of Justice, shall review the Amber Plan as adopted by other states and Orange County's Child Abduction Regional Emergency Alert Program for guidance in developing appropriate policies and procedures for use of the Emergency Alert System and, where appropriate, other supplemental warning systems to report qualifying abductions.
- (d) The California Highway Patrol, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, shall develop a comprehensive child abduction education system to educate children in the state on the appropriate behavior to deter abduction. The California Highway Patrol shall convene a group consisting of a representative from the California State Sheriffs' Association, the California Police Chiefs' Association, and the California Peace Officers' Association, representatives of advocacy groups, and the Department of Education to assist in the development of a plan.
- SEC. 3. Notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the claim for reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000), reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims Fund.
- SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to ensure the expedient development of a statewide child abduction alert program to deter child abductions and immediately help aid in the recovery of abducted children, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

California Penal Code Section 14205

- (a) All local police and sheriffs' departments shall accept any report, including any telephonic report, of a missing person, including runaways, without delay and shall give priority to the handling of these reports over the handling of reports relating to crimes involving property. In cases where the person making a report of a missing person or runaway, contacts, including by telephone, the California Highway Patrol, the California Highway Patrol may take the report, and shall immediately advise the person making the report of the name and telephone number of the police or sheriff's department having jurisdiction of the residence address of the missing person and of the name and telephone number of the police or sheriff's department having jurisdiction of the place where the person was last seen. In cases of reports involving missing persons, including, but not limited to, runaways, the local police or sheriff's department shall immediately take the report and make an assessment of reasonable steps to be taken to locate the person. If the missing person is under 16 years of age, or there is evidence that the person is at risk, the department shall broadcast a "Be On the Look-Out" bulletin, without delay, within its jurisdiction.
- (b) If the person reported missing is under 16 years of age, or if there is evidence that the person is at risk, the local police, sheriff's department, or the California Highway Patrol shall submit the report to the Attorney General's office within four hours after accepting the report. After the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System online missing person registry becomes operational, the reports shall be submitted, within four hours after accepting the report, to the Attorney General's office through the use of the California Telecommunications System.



Sampl€ Local Plans

Orange County



Child Abduction Regional Emergency

A Law Enforcement and Media Partnership to Bring Abducted and Missing Children Home Safely

Presented by the
Orange County Sheriff's Department
Sheriff Michael S. Carona,
in cooperation with the State of California,
Office of the Governor and Attorney General

C.A.R.E. ALERT Child Abduction Regional Emergency

I. Purpose

The goal of the C.A.R.E. Alert program is the safe return of an abducted child by establishing an effective partnership between the community, the media, and law enforcement.

II. History

A C.AR.E. Alert is the recruitment of public assistance to locate an abducted child via a wide spread media alert. Utilizing the assistance of Southern California radio, television and press affiliates the public will be notified of the circumstances of a child's abduction and how they can assist law enforcement in the child's recovery.

III. Authority

The Orange County Chiefs and Sheriff's Association approved the initial procedure on December 13, 1999, and approved additions/changes on August 7, 2002.

IV. Application

While the operating protocol and procedures contained herein are generally recommended for use by all Orange County law enforcement agencies, each individual agency retains the discretion to adopt, reject, or modify any portion of these guidelines in accordance with existing rules and regulations of that agency.

V. Policy/Procedure

Child Abduction Criteria

Abduction is defined as the following: A child under the age of 18, which has been unwillingly removed from their environment without permission from the child's legal guardian or a designated legal representative.

The C.A.R.E. Alert should only be implemented in cases of:

- 1. A confirmed abduction (non-family);
- 2. In the event of a parental abduction in which there is information the child is being removed from California or United States jurisdiction; or
- 3. The victim of a parental abduction faces the threat of injury or death; or
- 4. When circumstances surrounding a child's disappearance are unknown, an alert may be implemented after sufficient time has elapsed and investigation has taken place, which eliminate other alternative explanations for the child's absence.

With these criteria in place, the Police or Sheriff's Watch Commander or the assigned Investigative Unit Supervisor will know when it is appropriate to inform the media of the child abduction via a C.A.R.E. Alert.

Upon adopting the C.A.R.E. Protocol each agency should identify in advance those individuals who can approve and/or initiate a C.A.R.E. Alert in their jurisdiction.

A committee designated by the COPSA President will review all implementations of a C.A.R.E. Alert to insure the approved protocol and procedures are being followed and were effective. Based upon their review, the committee will make appropriate recommendations regarding protocol or procedural changes.

Procedures

In the event of a confirmed child abduction the following procedures designed to alert the media shall be followed.

- 1.The handling Law Enforcement Agency will prepare an initial press release that includes all of the available information, such as:
- The child's identity, age, and description.
- If known, the suspect's identity, age, and description.
- Pertinent vehicle description.
- Details, if known, regarding location of incident, direction of travel, potential destinations, etc
- Identify a media liaison or Press Information Officer, and provide a telephone number for the media to call for additional information or updates.
- A telephone number for the public to call in with leads/information. (Refer to mutual aid information contained herein.)
- 2. The handling agency or Control One will then telephone the following media alert system and provide them with the red channel broadcast information.
- Media Page (310) 838-1436

This is a voice activated paging system.

- 3. The handling agency or Control One will then fax the press release to the following locations:
- Associated Press Los Angeles Bureau FAX # (213) 346-0200
 Office number (213) 626-1200
- Associated Press Orange County Bureau FAX # (714) 573-7888
- City News Service
 FAX # (310) 201-2124
 Office number (310) 201-9145 /201-9120
- 3. If Mutual Aid services are not activated or requested, the information in the C.A.R.E. Alert should also be forwarded to the Orange County Sheriff's Department Emergency Communications Bureau so that general broadcasts can be made to Southern California Law Enforcement agencies, and so that the Emergency Alert System (EAS) may be utilized. Control One Supervisor Telephone # (714) 628-7008
 Patrol Watch Commander Telephone # (714) 628-7170
 FAX # (714) 628-7010
- 4. The handling Law Enforcement Agency will prepare and fax to the locations described above follow-up press releases with updates regarding the search and investigation, or immediately upon locating the abducted child.

Mutual Aid

The experiences of other law enforcement jurisdictions that have implemented similar plans indicate a C.A.R.E. Alert will generate a high volume of telephone calls to the handling agency.

Law Enforcement Agencies whose equipment or staffing levels will not support a higher volume of telephone inquiries may utilize the Orange County Sheriff's Department Emergency Communications Bureau facilities and staff as "call takers."

In this event, notify the Sheriff's Department Watch Commander of your incident and request for assistance at telephone number (714) 628-7170. He/she will provide you with a telephone number for the public to call.

In your press release direct the public to the telephone number provided by the Sheriff's Department Watch Commander.

The handling Law Enforcement Agency will continue to handle all press releases and media inquiries. Any press inquiries received by the Sheriff's Department will be referred back to the handling Law Enforcement Agency.

The handling Law Enforcement Agency shall assign a minimum of two detectives/officers to respond to the Sheriff's Department Emergency Communications Bureau to screen and relay information and clues received from incoming calls. As circumstances dictate, more staff resources from the handling Law Enforcement Agency may be necessary to assist the staff at the Emergency Communications Bureau.

Control One

In the event of a C.A.R.E. Alert a red channel broadcast will be followed by the initiation of a widespread media and law enforcement alert via telephone and fax.

Step One

Activate the Emergency Alert System (EAS) with the C.A.R.E. Alert information via fax. A completed C.A.R.E. Alert fax or telephone advisory should be sent to the EAS sites in the following counties.

- Orange County
- Imperial County
- Los Angeles County
- Riverside County
- San Bernardino County
- San Diego County
- Ventura County

Step Two

California Highway Patrol Orange County Communications Center (949) 559-7880

Electronic Road Warning Signs

• If suspect vehicle information exists the local CHP communications center will activate an electronic road sign "Child Abduction" Alert in Southern California. Motorists will be directed to telephone in suspect sightings to (800) TELL CHP.

Statewide Resources

• If the passage of time necessitates an expansion of the regional alert, the CHP Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ENTAC) can initiate large scale EAS and EDIS alerts upon request, as well as expand the use of the electronic road signs throughout California.

Step Three

A completed C.A.R.E. Alert fax or telephone advisory should be sent to the following locations.

Media Wire Services:

- Associated Press (213) 346-0200 fax
- City News Service (310) 201-9124 fax

A telephone call should be placed to Media Page, which is a voice activated paging system. After identifying yourself and agency, the information in the C.A.R.E. Alert should be read to the call taker.

• Media Page (310) 838-1436

Law Enforcement Communication sites:

- California Highway Patrol
- Los Angeles County Sheriff
- Los Angeles Police Department
- San Diego County Sheriff
- San Diego Police Department
- Riverside County Sheriff
- San Bernardino County Sheriff
- U.S. Border Patrol

Step Four

Transmit a C.A.R.E. Alert message via the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System. (CLETS) Include the mnemonic coding in the CLETS message to activate the Emergency Digital Information System. (EDIS) This message should be an administrative message directed to group code 3200 (all law enforcement) and mnemonic OES 0 (OES zero).

The first line should read "EDIS Flash, followed by "Child Abduction Alert". The remaining text should contain the C.A.R.E. Alert details and end with the characters "NNNN". This message will be automatically forwarded to designated media agencies via the Office of Emergency Services (OES) Emergency Digital Information System for immediate public release.

Step Five

Send Beyond Missing e-mail and fax notification to law enforcement agencies within a 200-mile radius of the abduction. Access and submission is via a password-protected account on the Internet Web Page for Beyond Missing.

Step Six

Fax or telephone updates to all of the above referenced resources or media locations on a regular basis, or immediately upon locating the abducted or missing child.

The C.A.R.E Alert was developed by Sgt. Christine Murray, Criminal Investigation Division Orange County Sheriff's Department, and Ms. Nina Salarno-Ashford, former Director of the Office of Victim Services, California Attorney General's Office

They gratefully acknowledge the Amber Alert Program in Dallas-Fort Worth, TX for creating the initial concept of a law enforcement and radio broadcasting partnership.

Development of the C.A.R.E. Alert was aided by input from the Radio and Television News Association, Orange County News Channel, KFWB news radio AM 980 and KWVE Radio FM 107.9

Operational solutions and Mutual Aid support were identified and provided by the Emergency Communications Bureau, under the leadership of Captain Catherine Zurn, and the Criminal Investigation Division, under the leadership of Captain Steve Carroll

For additional information about the C.A.R.E. Alert program or to receive a copy of the C.A.R.E. Alert training video please contact the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Sgt. Christine Murray at (714) 647-7040, or via e-mail at cmurray@ocsd.org

San Diego County



SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHILD ABDUCTION REGIONAL EMERGENCY ALERT (C.A.R.E. ALERT) PROCEDURE

GOAL

The swift location and recovery of abducted children through rapid public notification.

OBJECTIVE

The development of a communications partnership between local broadcast media, regional law enforcement agencies, and emergency services personnel to alert the public immediately following a child abduction utilizing the Emergency Alert System.

ALERT ACTIVATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1. The victim must be a minor, 17 years or younger, or have a proven mental or physical disability; AND
- 2. The victim must have been removed from their environment by someone other than a parent without parent/guardian permission; AND
- 3. Be considered to be in great danger

ALERT ACTIVATION PROCEDURE

LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

- 1. A law enforcement supervisor will determine that the circumstances surrounding the report of a missing child meet the criteria for an alert activation.
- 2. The law enforcement supervisor will prepare a brief (less than 2 minute) announcement with victim and suspect information. The announcement should include this information:
- A child has reportedly been abducted;
- Where the abduction took place;
- When the abduction took place;
- A description of the child;
- A description of the abductor;
- A description of the vehicle involved, if any;
- The last known direction of travel;
- A telephone number to contact the police with information;
- A statement that no action should be taken other than to inform police.
- 3. The law enforcement supervisor will telephone the Communications Center Watch Commander at the San Diego Sheriff's Department at (XXX) XXX-XXXX and notify him/her of the intent to activate the alert. In the event that the Sheriff's Department is unable to initiate an alert the San Diego Police Department is the alternate and the San Diego Police Duty Lieutenant should be contacted at (XXX) XXX-XXXX
- 4. The Communications Center Watch Commander will confirm the requestor's identity with the requesting agency.
- 5. Whenever possible, the law enforcement supervisor will transmit the announcement in writing to the Communications Center Watch

 Commander, either by fax or email. If conditions preclude transmitting the written information, the Watch Commander may take the information over the telephone.
- 6. The initiating law enforcement agency will be responsible for complying with reporting procedures as required by Penal Code Section 14205, relative to the Missing Unidentified Persons System. They will also be responsible for advising other local agencies of the Child Abduction Emergency and will provide media contact information.
- 7. Employment of other elements of the California Child Safety AMBER Network such as Technology to Recover Abducted Kids (TRAK), California Emergency Digital Information System

- (EDIS), Caltrans CMS (changeable message signs), or the launch of a Statewide EAS alert through the California Highway Patrol will be the responsibility of the initiating agency.
- 8. Training and implementation of this procedure will be the responsibility of each participating law enforcement agency.
- 9. The Communications Center Watch Commander will telephone the Local Primary Radio Station (LP1 or LP2) and state the following:

"This is (name/title) of (Agency). I am requesting an activation of the Emergency Alert System for a Child Abduction Emergency".

10. The Communications Center Watch Commander will request a fax number from the LP1 contact and request that he/she standby for a fax transmission. The LP1 Contact will provide a fax number after completing the identity confirmation process described below.

RADIO STATION RESPONSIBILITY (LP1 or LP2)

- 1. The LP1 contact person will acknowledge the request. Both parties will disconnect the telephone. The LP1 will initiate a callback to a previously designated telephone number to confirm the Watch Commander's identity. Upon confirmation, the LP1 contact will provide the Watch Commander with the requested fax number. Any attempt by a caller to have the callback made to any number other than those designated and on file at the LP1 will result in the LP1 ignoring the activation request.
- 2. The LP1 contact will standby to receive the faxed information.
- 3. The LP1 contact will be responsible for the recording and transmission of the written announcement via the Emergency Alert System to all participating broadcast stations and cable facilities.

ALERT CANCELLATION PROCEDURE

LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

1. The initiating law enforcement agency is responsible for update and cancellation of any alert activation through its regular media/information release procedures and will notify all allied law enforcement agencies.