

# Protecting Our Children in the 21st Century



Dear Neighbor,

Recent data spells out a troubling reality for parents: nearly 800,000 children may be reported missing this year (about 2,200 a day). While most are never in real danger and will be found relatively quickly, some, sadly, are never seen again. Roughly 114,000 children face actual abduction attempts every year.

The minutes and hours immediately following a child's disappearance are the most critical. New York State's Amber Alert helps get the word out quickly to the public and to local law enforcement agencies that abduction has occurred. However, there are extra precautions that parents can take. To help parents have easy access to much of the information they will need to provide local authorities, I have put together a Child Safety Record. Fill out this record with your child, and keep it in a safe and readily available location.

Once completed, these documents will contain a detailed profile of the missing child and in a race against time, can help authorities find him or her more quickly. I've also included ten of the most common tips advised by law enforcement to protect your child.

As unlikely as it is that your child will ever be in this situation, should that happen, you will be glad you took the time to record this vital information into one document. As always, feel free to contact my office with any questions or if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Catharine M. Young 57th Senate District

### Child's Full Name:



Keep this record in a safe and accessible location

This is your child's private record of personal information to be given to police if it is ever needed.

# Safety Counts: Your Child

Before you fill in this information you may want to make copies to update annually (your child's birthday or first day of school are good dates to remember).

Child's Name (first)	(middle initial) (last name)			
Street	Apt # City	State Zip		
( )		<u>//</u>		
Home phone		Cell phone of parent or guardian		
Nickname of Child	s	Social Security Number		
Mother's Name	Phone Number (home / work)	Social Security Number		
Street	Apt # City	State Zip		
Father's Name	Phone Number (home / work)	Social Security Number		
Street	Apt # City	State Zip		
back (bir	identifying marks on front and rthmarks, scars, moles, etc.) with ons	Hair Sample (roots and follicles attached)		

## l's Identification Record

Identifying	g Characi	teristics	Dental Records				
Height: Weight:	D.O.B.:		Dentist's Name:				
Hair color/description (long/short, curly/straight):			Phone Number:				
Eye Color:			Street  Attach copy of denta	City	State Zip  able (X-ray)		
Glasses □ yes □ no C							
Braces/Type: □ yes □ r							
Particular mannerisms: _							
Clothing Size:	Shoe S	Size:					
Physical Handicaps:							
Hand Preference:							
Child's fas	. a . i t a						
Child's far	ortie			- ·			
Foods:			Medical	Records			
Activities:			Doctor's Name:				
			Phone Number:				
List of Chil	Id's Rost	friends	Thone Number.				
List of Circ	a s Desi j	richus	Street	City	State Zip		
1.	( )						
Name phone number			Child's Blood Type:				
Street City State Zip			Medications:				
2.	( )						
Name	phone	number	Allergies:				
Street City State Zip			Chronic Illnesses:				
			Hospital where born:				
ingerprints:							
You can take this							
form to your local	RIGHT THUMB	RIGHT INDEX	RIGHT MIDDLE	RIGHT RING	RIGHT PINKIE		
police department							
with your child.							

**District Office:** Westgate Plaza, 700 West State Street • (716) 372-4901 **Albany Office:** 307 Legislative Office Bldg. • Albany, NY 12247 • (518) 455-3563 **Website:** young.nysenate.gov • Email: cyoung@nysenate.gov

tsirtsia stans? dt/?

## New York State Senator Catharine M. Young

Safety Counts:
Protecting Our Children in the 21st Century



### TIPS FOR PROTECTING YOUR CHILD

1) Don't just preach "stranger danger"— teach your child to recognize and avoid situations that may actually place them in danger.

2) Make sure that your child has memorized your home number, your address, and 911.

- 3) Identify registered offenders in your area (http://www.familywatchdog.us/).
- 4) Teach your child the buddy system and to always walk with at least one other friend.
- 5) Practice drills with your child that include when they are accidentally separated from you in a public place, or in the event that they have been kidnapped.
- 6) Teach your child to yell "you're not my parent" if they are approached by someone they don't know.
- Many abductions occur at the hands of family and friends. If someone other than yourself is sent to pick up your child, develop a "safe word" with your child and have that person tell your child the "safe word." If that person does not know the "safe word," your child should know not to go with them.
- 8) Restrict your child's access to the internet know what sites your child is visiting and who they are talking to.
- 9) Watch for sudden behavioral changes in your child that may cause them to drop their guard or not consider the possible dangers of certain situations.
- 10) Talk with your child and help them think proactively about how they can protect themselves when you are not with them.

# More Resources For Parents

For more information about the Amber Alert Plan, call the Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse at 1-800-FIND-KID (1-800-346-3543) or http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/missing/

### **NATIONAL HOTLINES:**

#### **Child Find of America**

1-800-I-AM-LOST (1-800-426-5678) or http://www.childfindofamerica.org/

### National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

1-800-843-5678 or http://www.missingkids.com/

#### **Covenant House Nineline Runaways**

1-800-999-9999

or http://www.covenanthouse.org/nineline/

#### Vanished Children's Alliance

1-800-VANISHED (1-800-826-4743) or http://www.vca.org/

