

OUR MISSION

Find Missing Children

Reduce Child Sexual Exploitation

Prevent Future Victimization



Hope is why we're here.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® was founded in 1984 by John and Revé Walsh after their 6-year-old son, Adam, was abducted from a shopping mall in Florida and murdered. His tragic death, and that of other missing children, inspired a movement to create a coordinated national response to the issues of missing and exploited children.

Our private, non-profit organization, based in Alexandria, Virginia, has been at the forefront of child protection for more than three decades. We work with victims, their families, private industry, law enforcement and many other stakeholders to achieve our mission.

A man with a beard is hugging a young child from behind. The image has a warm, yellowish tint.

FINDING Missing Children

Our work to find missing children includes:

- Operating a 24/7 national hotline, 1-800-THE-LOST® (1-800-843-5678) for tips and reports related to missing and sexually exploited children
- Creating and distributing billions of missing child posters
- Redistributing AMBER Alerts® to millions of people
- Rapidly deploying our team of retired law enforcement to assist in critical missing children cases
- Creating age-progressed photos to help search for children missing for 6 months or more
- Using forensic technology and facial reconstructions to search for the identities of deceased child victims
- Connecting victims' families to therapeutic and peer support

A group of hands of various skin tones are stacked together in a circle, symbolizing unity and support. The image has a teal tint.

REDUCING Child Sexual Exploitation

Our work to reduce child sexual exploitation includes:

- Operating the CyberTipline®, the centralized reporting system in the U.S. for child sexual exploitation
- Analyzing millions of reports and providing information to law enforcement that can help stop the victimization of a child
- Working with law enforcement to identify and rescue children in sexually abusive images and videos
- Helping locate victims of child sex trafficking and providing some of the essentials they need to begin their recovery
- Assisting law enforcement with tracking non-compliant sex offenders

A group of children are sitting on the floor in a classroom, looking towards the front. The image is in black and white.

PREVENTING Future Victimization

Our work to provide training and education includes:

- Creating safety education programs for children – KidSmartz® and NetSmartz® – based on our experience and data
- Training law enforcement and other safety and child-serving professionals who work on cases of missing and sexually exploited children
- Providing child safety tools, including Safety Central, a free digital Child ID app

MissingKids.org





LET'S WORK TOGETHER IN
EMPOWERING,
SUPPORTING &
ASSISTING
FAMILIES

“THANK YOU

for all of your help and support. I was
a wreck when I first called Team Hope,
and you did truly, truly give me hope.”

– Parent of a missing child

Professional Referrals

Families coping with a missing or exploited child may need help from therapeutic providers who understand how a family and community are impacted. Our Family Advocacy Outreach Network (FAON) is a diverse network of licensed mental health consultants who provide brief or ongoing therapeutic care on a sliding-fee scale or at no charge. This network is international in scope, and **we seek professionals with expertise in family trauma to join us. To learn more and apply to join our network, visit MissingKids.org/FAON.**

Family & Community Assistance

Master's level trained specialists work directly with families on the unique challenges facing them to reunite, rebuild and reconnect. Our dedicated child and family advocates strengthen families by offering telephonic support, crisis intervention, educational outreach and assistance to families, communities and other professionals.

“I feel so blessed and honored to be associated with such a great agency and group of people who are caring for children and families during this most difficult time.”

– FAON volunteer



Peer Support

There are thousands of parents today who don't know where their children are or who have discovered their child has been sexually exploited. We support families as they navigate this unimaginable, traumatic journey. We pair these family members and caregivers with people who've experienced the pain of having a missing or sexually exploited child. These volunteers, known as Team HOPE, provide peer support, coping skills and compassion to families.

Reunification Assistance

Reuniting a family with a recovered missing or exploited child can be difficult and challenging. We offer wide-ranging resources to families and children, including travel assistance, mental health services and peer support.



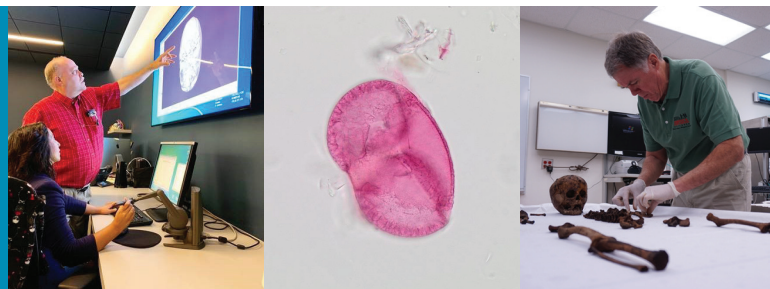
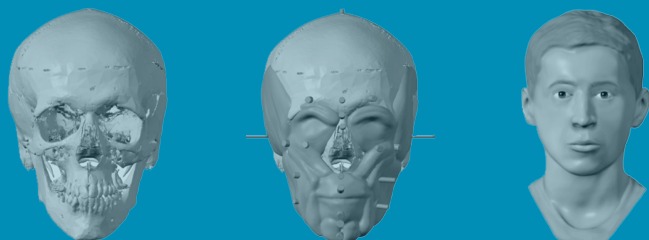
For more information, contact
1-800-THE-LOST® (1-800-843-5678)

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FORENSIC RESOURCES



NCMEC partners with a variety of forensic professionals to provide cutting-edge forensic resources on cases involving missing and exploited children.

- » Authenticating Communications (Handwriting, ID Docs)
- » Autosomal and Whole Genome Sequencing
- » Biometric Collection and Analysis [DNA, Dentals, Fingerprints]
- » Carbon Dating
- » Chemical Isotope Analysis
- » Clandestine Grave Search Efforts
- » Exhumation Assistance
- » Facial Comparison
- » Facial Reconstructions from Skeletal Remains or Soft Tissue [3D or 2D Facial Reconstructions]
- » Forensic Anthropology
- » Forensic Genealogy
- » Image and Audio Enhancement
- » Latent Print Examinations
- » M-VAC
- » Phenotyping
- » Pollen and Soil Analysis
- » Rapid DNA
- » Vehicle Forensics

CONTACT

forensics@ncmec.org

1-800-THE-LOST®
MissingKids.org



Outreach & Resources for Native American, Tribal & Indigenous Communities

A five-year analysis (1/1/2016-12/31/2020) of children reported missing to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) shows that Native American children comprised 2% of all intakes.

NCMEC provides **technical assistance and resources** for Native American and Indigenous communities. Our outreach includes collaborations with tribal nations and law enforcement, the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the National Criminal Justice Training Center.

■ U.S. DOJ Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Working Group:

This group serves to develop model protocols and procedures to apply to new and unsolved cases of missing or murdered persons in Native American and Indigenous communities. NCMEC supports this work by leveraging our resources to help children and families recover from victimization, assist law enforcement and families in finding missing children, preventing and resolving child abduction homicides, and identifying unknown deceased children. Learn more about NCMEC's case resources by visiting: MissingKids.org/caseresources.

- **U.S. DOJ Tribal Access Program:** NCMEC supports the training and resources provided through the DOJ Tribal Access Program (TAP). This program allows federally-recognized tribes that apply for and are accepted to TAP to more effectively serve and protect their nation's citizens by ensuring the exchange of critical data across the Criminal Justice Information Services systems and other national crime information systems such as the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). When missing children are entered into NCIC, NCMEC is able to provide technical assistance. Learn more about the benefits and application process for TAP at: Justice.gov/tribal/tribal-access-program-tap.

Between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2018, NCMEC assisted with **1,909 cases** involving missing Native American children.

85%

Endangered
Runaway cases

12%

Family
Abduction cases

59%

female

41%

male

65%

15-17 years old

23%

10-14 years old

■ Northeast Tribal Conference on Child

Victimization: NCMEC hosts and co-sponsors the annual "Northeast Tribal Conference on Child Victimization" in partnership with the Seneca Nation of Indians, Native American Children's Alliance, Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center, National Criminal Justice Training Center, the New York State Children's Alliance, and Native American Community Services. This two-day conference brings together attendees from across the U.S. and Canada representing tribal nations, non-government organizations, multi-disciplinary team representatives, and non-tribal professionals that provide services to children and families in Indian Country. Issues addressed include historical trauma, investigation, medical and mental health service provision, missing and murdered indigenous persons, and cross-jurisdictional challenges.

■ **Ashlynnne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2018:**

The tragic 2016 abduction and murder of Ashlynnne Mike in Shiprock, New Mexico, brought national attention to the jurisdictional issues that can hinder the swift recovery of missing Native American and Indigenous children. With the support of NCMEC, Congress enacted the Ashlynnne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2018, which encourages integration of tribal AMBER Alert systems into state AMBER Alert systems and provides for related grant funding. NCMEC collaborates with the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program's support for tribal nations. Examples of our work include investigative checklists which can be found here: MissingKids.org/publications.

■ **Team Adam Consultants:** NCMEC can help tribal law enforcement by deploying Team Adam Consultants (TACs). TACs are deployed to the scene and provide technical assistance and connect families and tribal law enforcement to NCMEC's vast network of resources. Learn more at: MissingKids.org/caseresources.

■ **Team HOPE:** NCMEC's Team HOPE is a group of trained volunteers who have experienced the trauma of having a missing or sexually exploited child. Our volunteers are dedicated to offering compassionate peer support, empathy, understanding, kindness and friendship to families as they cope with their child's exploitation, search for their missing child, or handle the issues they face after their child is recovered or located. For more information call 866-305-4673 (HOPE) or visit: MissingKids.org/teamhope.

■ **Long-Term Missing/Unidentified Children:** Long-term missing children cases are those in which all viable leads have been thoroughly investigated, but the child is still missing. NCMEC provides case strategies and other forms of assistance in these cases and those involving the unidentified remains of children, including:

- » Forensic artist age progressions of long-term missing children to show what they may look like today and facial and skull reconstructions for unidentified deceased children.

- » Facilitating biometric collection (e.g., dental records for forensic odontology coding and coding of fingerprints) and connecting law enforcement with public/private partners current in forensic methods and technologies.
- » Searching and analyzing data for possible matches in the NCMEC, NamUs, and NCIC databases.

For more information on these resources visit: MissingKids.org/longtermmissing.

■ **NCMEC Hotline:** After a child is reported missing to law enforcement, families or caregivers are encouraged to call NCMEC at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678). A Call Center specialist will record information about the child and a NCMEC case manager will work directly with the family and investigating law enforcement agency. Reports of child sexual exploitation can also be made to the CyberTipline at 1-800-THE-LOST or MissingKids.org/cybertipline.

■ **Law Enforcement Training:** NCMEC is committed to providing training and technical assistance to public safety and child-serving professionals through [in-person classroom training sessions](#) in our Alexandria, VA headquarters, as well as facilities located across the country at our regional offices and partner agencies. Online courses are also available through [NCMEC CONNECT](#).

■ **Prevention Education and Community Outreach Resources:** NCMEC provides free, downloadable [resources](#) to engage children, parents/caregivers, and communities in important information about digital citizenship and online safety. [Into the Cloud™](#) is NCMEC's flagship online safety program for children ages 10 and under that is age-appropriate and engaging. Using data from actual CyberTipline reports, it teaches strategies for preventing online exploitation – from handling cyberbullying, to recognizing and reporting unsafe/inappropriate interactions and content.



Child Sex Trafficking Recovery Services Team (RST)

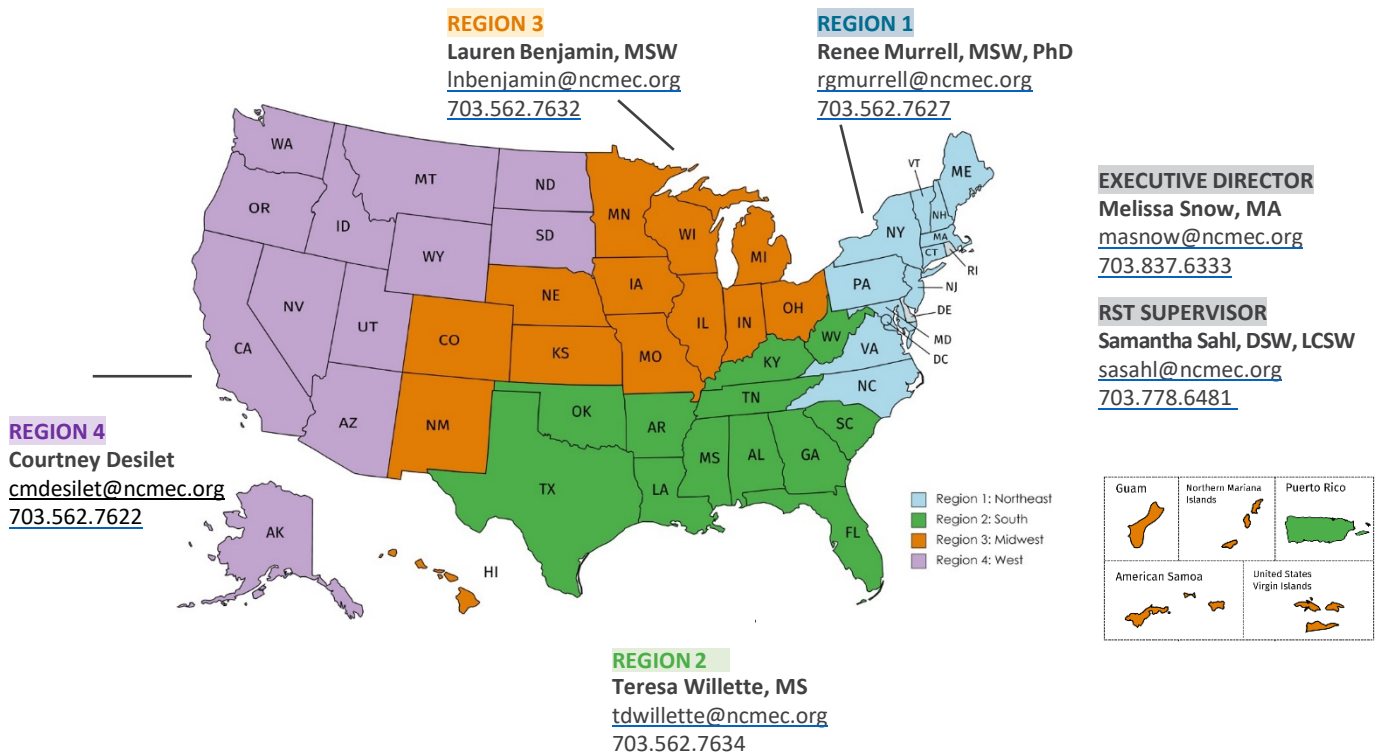
The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) is available to provide specialized technical assistance and resources to child welfare professionals, foster parents and law enforcement who are working with missing children who are also victims of child sex trafficking.

RST Resource Specialists are assigned to multi-state regions and available to offer the following assistance for cases involving child sex trafficking:

- » Share promising practices in trauma-informed responses and reducing running behavior
- » Provide case-based assistance in the development of trauma-informed and victim-centered recovery plans
- » Connect professionals to local and national organizations that provide specialized services
- » Provide resources and support on meaningful youth engagement, effective approaches to trauma responses, strategies to address and reduce running behavior, and safety planning
- » Provide training and assist with protocol development
- » Support multidisciplinary efforts to prevent revictimization

Why Recovery planning?

When a survivor of child sex trafficking is “recovered” or returns to child welfare care, it is a disruption, or a pause, in their victimization. “Recovery Planning” recognizes this disruption as an unparalleled opportunity to begin to break the cycle of exploitation through intentional, planned, trauma-informed, and victim-centered engagement. Informed and specialized engagement at the time of and following recovery, has the potential to discredit the lies and manipulation of a trafficker and start to build the foundation of healthy, caring relationships.



NCMEC has developed a three-part Child Sex Trafficking Training “Addressing Child Sex Trafficking: Risk Factors, Recognition and Response”. You can access it [here](#).