

Protecting Tribal Youth from Abduction



Today, tribal youth face some of the biggest threats to their health, wellness, and safety. These threats could further lead to children going missing or child abduction. Becoming more aware of the signs tribal youth might exhibit when they need help could greatly help diminish these threats.

What are some of the signs that your youth may need help?



Violence & Gang Activity

- Hanging out with a new group of friends
- Using unusual hand signs, nicknames, or street language
- Drawing strange symbols or graffiti on notebooks and folders
- Dressing in the same color clothing every day or wearing tattoos, unusual jewelry, hairstyles, or clothing that could identify with a particular gang
- Carrying guns, knives, or other weapons



Mental Health Issues

- Frequently sad, irritable, worried, angry, or clingy
- Constant aches and pains
- Refused to go to school
- Low self-esteem, avoids social interaction, and loss of interest in normal activities
- Poor school attendance
- Alcohol or substance abuse



Internet Crime Against Children

- Child becomes withdrawn and isolated from family and friends
- You have found inappropriate material on a computer the youth has used
- The youth receive mail, money, or gifts from unknown people



Sexual Abuse & Exploitation

- Sudden change in demeanor that is hostile or demonstrates low self-esteem
- Sexual behavior that could include inappropriate touching or sexual language
- Injuries that may have come from physical or sexual assault or physical restraint



When Children Go Missing

Children are considered missing when they are 17 years old or younger, their whereabouts are unknown for at least one hour, and their caretakers have tried to locate them.

If a child is declared missing, the local police department can issue an AMBER Alert, a broadcast emergency response that informs the general public of the missing child and identifying information so that they can contact the police department if they witness anything relevant.

Being proactive can help prevent an AMBER Alert from becoming necessary.



Get Involved & Talk With Your Children

- Establish solid communication with your children so they can confide in you
- Know where your children are going and with whom
- Know and talk with your children's friends and family
- Work with your children on how to react and what to do in unsafe situations



Teach Children What to Do If They Are Lost

- Call out the first name of the person they are with. If they do not respond, go to a store employee and ask for help.
- If in a public place, use their cell phone to call you. If no cell phone, they should look for a police officer, guard, or another parent with children and tell them they are lost. If no one is around, use a pay phone and dial 911.



Youth & Parent Resources: Publications

Tips For Parents: Preventing Abduction

www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/KidSmarztz_Preventing_Abduction.pdf

Going To and From School Safely

www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/Going_to_and_from_school_EN.pdf

What Should You Do If You See A Child Who Appears To Be Lost?

www.missingkids.org/en_US/publications/PDF15A.pdf



Prevention Tips for Parents

- Never assume your child can't be abducted
- Never leave your young children unattended
- Teach children to always ask permission before going anywhere with anyone
- Teach children to stay in groups or stay close to caregivers
- Be suspicious of anyone who showers your child with extraordinary amounts of attention or presents
- Teach children that they cannot tell who may hurt or abduct them by a person's appearance
- Teach children to scream and make a scene when they are in danger
- Make sure children know how to make telephone calls and 911 from home, cell phone or pay phone in an emergency
- Children need to know what to do if someone comes to the door or when answering the phone
- Establish strict procedures regarding how your child will get home from school. Be consistent!
- Test children on their safety skills. Repetition will help them remember
- Teach children that abductors can use tricks or bribes to get children to go with them

Youth & Parent Resources: Websites



Tribal Database www.tribaldatabase.org

Learn about AMBER Alert in Indian Country

Netsmartz Kids www.netsmartzkids.org

Internet safety for ages 5-10

NS Teens www.nsteens.org

Learn about cyberbullying

Netsmartz Teens www.netsmartz.org/teens

Report cyberbullying

FBI Safe Online Internet Challenge <https://sos.fbi.gov/>

Internet safety for ages 9-14

We R Native www.wernative.org

Resource for Native youth on various topics

Interland www.beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/interland

Internet safety for all ages

To request AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance, please visit www.NCJTC.org. For more resources, visit ncjtc.ftvc.edu/ProtectTribalYouth