

I.D. Me is a child identification program that enhances the Code Amber Alert System. The Berks County Sheriff's department captures a digital photo of your child and stores it on the County of Berks computer network.

If your child would become the victim of abduction, the digital photo along with the child's demographics would be sent to the Pennsylvania State Police for submission to the Code Amber Alert organization, provided that the Activation Criteria would apply. If the criteria are met, the Amber Alert system would then be activated.

I.D. Me is a free community service provided by the Berks County Sheriff's Department.

Our goal:
**"To protect
America's
future...
our
children".**



Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht has been a member of the Berks County Sheriff's Department since 1984. He is committed to protecting our children through programs like Deputy Phil which teaches home, school and neighborhood safety; Deputy-Youth Mentoring programs engaging in sports coaching and the ID Me Program.

ID Me is a child identification card program that was created by Sheriff Weaknecht. So far the program has provided over 10,000 child identification cards since its inception in 2003.

Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

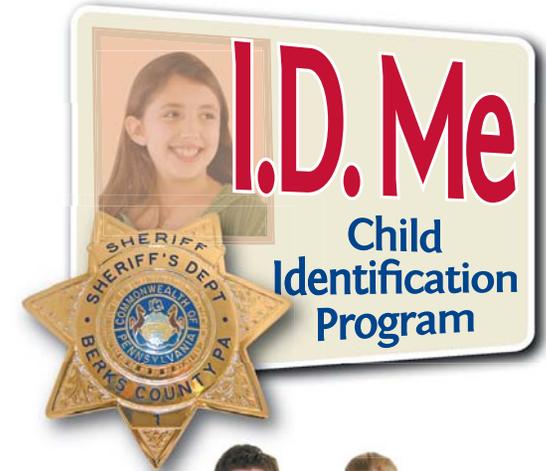
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Emergencies Dial: 911



Berks County Sheriff's Department Child Identification Program





What are the Activation Criteria?

Law enforcement and the media worked together to establish the activation criteria. The criteria were established so that the plan would only be used in appropriate cases. The media and the public must understand the time constraints law enforcement encounter when a child is reported missing. In order for the Pennsylvania Amber Alert Plan to be activated, law enforcement must be satisfied the following criteria have been met:

- The abducted child must be under eighteen (18) years of age.
- The abducted child is believed to be in danger of death or serious bodily injury

The plan is limited to “abducted” children, and, therefore, excludes children believed to be runaways or throwaways from home.

What is an Amber Alert?

Each program establishes its own AMBER Plan criteria; however, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children suggests three criteria that should be met before an Alert is activated.

- Law enforcement confirms a child has been abducted
- Law enforcement believes the circumstances surrounding the abduction indicate that the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death
- There is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor, and/or suspect’s vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help

If these criteria are met, alert information must be put together for public distribution. This information can include descriptions and pictures of the missing child, the suspected abductor, a suspected vehicle, and any other information available and valuable to identifying the child and suspect.

How does it work?

Upon receipt of an Amber Alert from Law Enforcement Authorities anywhere in the world, day or night, the CodeAmber ticker will be updated immediately on our server. During an Amber Alert all of the relevant details provided by the reporting Authority will be scrolled in the Code Amber ticker window. The information will include the location of the abduction and contact information for the reporting Authority as well as links (if available) to images of the abductee, suspect composites and any other details provided by the reporting authority.

The Pennsylvania Amber Alert Plan Web Site is utilized as an additional source and tool for an Amber Alert Activation. This Web Site will not be utilized to post updates or cancellations of the activation. Once posted to this web site an Amber Alert Activation will remain for a period of twenty-four hours.

Updated information on the investigation will be the sole responsibility of the investigating agency.

Users are encouraged to register on the Amber Alert Web Site. Once registered, they will receive an e-alert - an e-mail message containing the text of the Amber Alert Activation to any e-mail account they specify.



America’s Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response

The AMBER Plan was created in 1996 as a powerful legacy to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, a bright little girl who was kidnapped and brutally murdered while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas. The tragedy shocked and outraged the entire community. Residents contacted radio stations in the Dallas area and suggested they broadcast special “alerts” over the airwaves so that they could help prevent such incidents in the future.

In response to the community’s concern for the safety of local children, the Dallas/Fort Worth Association of Radio

Managers teamed up with local law enforcement agencies in northern Texas and developed this innovative early warning system to help find abducted children. Statistics show that, when abducted, a child’s greatest enemy is time.

www.CountyofBerks.com/Sheriff

www.amber.state.pa.us