

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



**REPORT OF THE INTERIM
COMMITTEE ON THE PREVENTION OF
CHILD ABDUCTION AND KIDNAPPING**

Representative Craig Hosmer, Chair
District 138

Representative Cathy Jolly, Vice Chair
District 45

Representative Kathlyn Fares
District 91

Representative Tom Green
District 15

Representative Meg Harding
District 30

Representative Rick Johnson
District 90

Representative Susan Phillips
District 32

Representative Michael Reid
District 78

Representative Annie Reinhart
District 34

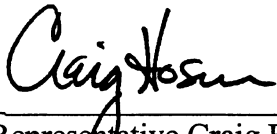
Prepared by
Amy V. Woods, Legislative Analyst
November 1, 2002

November 1, 2002

The Honorable Jim Kreider
Speaker of the House
State Capitol, Room 308
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Interim Committee on the Prevention of Child Abduction and Kidnapping, acting pursuant to your request, has met, taken testimony, deliberated, and concluded its study on implementing a statewide abduction alert system. The undersigned members of the Committee are pleased to submit the attached report.



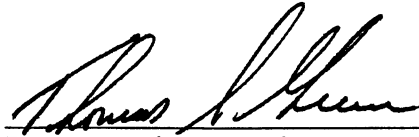
Representative Craig Hosmer
Chair



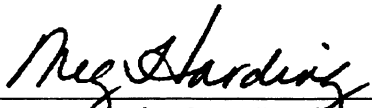
Representative Cathy Jolly
Vice Chair



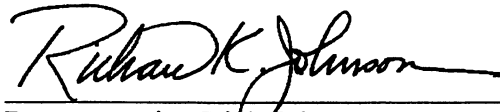
Representative Kathlyn Fares



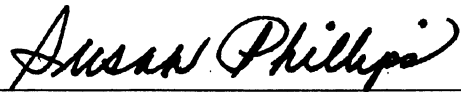
Representative Tom Green



Representative Meg Harding



Representative Rick Johnson



Representative Susan Phillips



Representative Michael Reid



Representative Annie Reinhart



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....1

Summary of Issues and Findings.....2

Recommendations.....5

Appendix A – List of Witnesses.....6

Appendix B -- Springfield Abduction Alert Plan.....7

Appendix C – Kansas City AMBER Alert Plan.....10

Appendix D – St. Louis S.A.R.A.A. Plan.....14

INTRODUCTION

The House Interim Committee on the Prevention of Child Abduction and Kidnapping was formed at the authorization of House Speaker Jim Kreider. The charge to the committee was as follows: “The House Interim Committee on the Prevention of Child Abduction and Kidnapping is charged with reviewing current procedures for preventing and locating missing children due to abduction and kidnapping. The Committee shall study the implementation of an integrated statewide system, commonly known as the AMBER (America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response) Plan, for the successful return of missing children due to abduction and kidnapping and the immediate apprehension of the suspect. The Committee shall receive testimony from the Missouri Attorney General, local law enforcement agencies, missing and exploited children organizations, emergency alert systems, electronic media outlets, and other individuals and organizations the Committee deems appropriate.” The members of the committee included Representatives Craig Hosmer (Chair); Cathy Jolly (Vice Chair); Kathlyn Fares, Tom Green, Meg Harding, Rick Johnson, Susan Phillips; Michael Reid; and Annie Reinhart.

The Committee met four times throughout the state: October 21, 2002 in Springfield, Missouri and Kansas City, Missouri; and October 22, 2002 in Jefferson City, Missouri and St. Charles, Missouri. Witnesses included officers from city, county, and statewide law enforcement organizations, city council members, prosecuting attorneys, representatives of broadcasters, and the attorney general’s office. A complete list of witnesses appears in Appendix A.

The Committee heard testimony in Springfield, Kansas City, and St. Charles about the local abduction alert plans that are currently in operation in those communities. Representatives from the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Attorney General’s Office also testified about recommendations for a statewide abduction alert system. The Committee focused on two areas throughout the hearings: learning about existing programs, and developing suggestions for a statewide system. The Committee believes that time is of the essence in establishing a statewide abduction alert system, and encourages the Missouri State Highway Patrol, other law enforcement agencies, and the media to go forward with implementing a statewide system immediately.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND FINDINGS

The testimony presented to the Committee focused on two primary subjects: abduction alerts that are currently operating in several areas of the state, and suggestions for a statewide plan. An abduction alert system, commonly known as an AMBER Alert, refers to agreements between law enforcement agencies and the media to notify the public immediately when a child is abducted with the hope that the public can help law enforcement with the safe recovery of the child and the apprehension of the suspect.

Current Programs

There are currently abduction alert plans in Springfield, Kansas City, and St. Louis. In addition, testimony indicated that law enforcement agencies in the Sikeston, Rolla, St. Joseph, West Plains, and Joplin areas are all currently working on implementing regional child abduction alert plans in those areas of the state.

The Springfield Amanda plan has been in place for about one year, and it includes Greene County, the City of Springfield, and the five surrounding counties. Troop D of the Missouri State Highway Patrol also participates in the Springfield Amanda plan. Testimony indicated that the Amanda Alert has been activated 5 to 6 times since it was initially implemented

Witnesses testified that the Springfield plan does not use age as a determining factor in deciding whether or not to activate an alert. Rather, the Springfield plan requires law enforcement officers to look at the circumstances of each situation to make a determination. Law enforcement must conduct an initial investigation to rule out other explanations for the person's disappearance. They must believe that the person has been abducted and that they are in danger of serious physical harm or death. Witnesses testified that under these guidelines, the Springfield Amanda plan could also be activated for abductions involving individuals who have serious, documented medical conditions that pose a danger if medication or treatment is not maintained. Witnesses emphasized that the Amanda plan should be activated only for cases of stranger abductions and should not be used in cases involving runaways or custodial abductions. Law enforcement officials from the Springfield area testified that they had worked with local media outlets and had commitments from area media to broadcast alert information in the form of crawler messages on the bottom of the television, as well as live breaks every 10 to 15 minutes. . The system also allows law enforcement to send out a cancellation notice to the same media outlets and other agencies that received the initial alert.

Springfield uses a computer software package called Abduction Central Alert Software, which sends out information about an abducted child to a 100-mile radius when it is activated. The software package used in Springfield allows law enforcement to notify truck stops, trash services, convenience stores, cellular phones and pagers that have text messaging capabilities in a 100-mile radius, as well as local media outlets. Witnesses testified that this software is helpful in getting information to a large group of people over a wide area in a relatively short period of time.

The Kansas City AMBER Alert plan is three or four years old, and it relies on the Kansas City Police Department to be the central agency for activation of the alert. Kansas City's

program has an age limit of 15, and also requires responding law enforcement officers to confirm the abduction through a preliminary investigation. Law enforcement officers must also believe there is a risk of serious harm or death to the child, and have information about the child or the suspect to distribute to the public.

The St. Louis plan is known as S.A.R.A.A., which stands for St. Louis Regional Abduction Alert, and it covers seven counties in Missouri and seven counties in Illinois. S.A.R.A.A. has an age limit of 16, and it requires law enforcement officials to verify that an abduction has taken place. Law enforcement must also believe that the child is in imminent danger, and to have a description of the perpetrator or the perpetrator's vehicle to disseminate to the public. The St. Louis program focuses on radio stations, with the idea of notifying other motorists who are in their cars to be on the lookout for the perpetrator's vehicle. Officials from the St. Louis area testified that the law enforcement agency supervisor on the scene makes the decision to issue an alert, and faxes a pre-printed form with general information about the child to the radio station KMOX. KMOX confirms the information included on the fax and then sends the information out to the other participating broadcasters.

Several witnesses raised questions about particular problems with activating a child abduction alert in a rural part of the state. There was also testimony from a rural law enforcement agency that participates in the Springfield plan as to particular considerations for implementing a plan in a rural area. The witness indicated that many rural residents don't have cable television and therefore might not be able to get information about an alert as easily as residents in more metropolitan areas. Testimony also indicated that radio stations in rural areas are not staffed 24 hours a day, which may pose a problem in getting the abduction alert information on the air quickly. Witnesses also raised the possibility of instituting a "Reverse 911" system in Missouri to notify residents in a particular area of an abduction or other public safety emergency.

Suggestions for a Statewide Abduction Alert Plan

Witnesses presented the Committee with numerous suggestions for a statewide abduction alert plan. Many of the suggestions are based on the law enforcement agencies' experiences with the plans that have already been implemented in Springfield, Kansas City, and St. Louis. The suggestions fall into three main categories: the criteria for activating an alert system; the preservation of local control over local plans; and the role of the Missouri State Highway Patrol in a statewide plan.

Many witnesses agreed that a statewide abduction alert plan should include specific criteria that minimize the amount of interpretation that needs to be done by local law enforcement officers who respond to the scene of a reported abduction. Witnesses cautioned about over-using the system by issuing alerts in cases that don't meet the criteria, and suggested that the criteria for issuing an alert be as specific as possible. They also suggested implementing a statewide training program for local law enforcement officials that would focus on child abduction and the abduction alert plan as a way to mitigate differences in interpretation of the criteria.

Much of the testimony about criteria for a statewide abduction alert plan focused on the issue of age. Two of the plans currently operating in the state include age as a criterion; one does not. Many witnesses cited cases involving abductions that may not have triggered an abduction alert because of the age of the victim in support of their position to not include age in the criteria for a statewide plan. Witnesses also noted the difficulty in drawing a line at an age when the alert should be activated and after which the alert should not be activated, and some witnesses indicated that age could be a hindrance to fully utilizing the plan if it is included as a criterion. However, a few witnesses testified that including an age limit would help avoid over-use of the plan, and focusing on children might heighten the public's attention to an alert.

Witnesses were unanimous in their testimony supporting the preservation of the local programs that currently exist, as well as preserving the authority of local law enforcement agencies to develop local plans in the future. They also expressed a desire for a statewide abduction alert plan to provide a "shell" to guide local law enforcement agencies, and to take the place of a local plan if the community decides not to develop their own plan. There was also testimony in favor of a statewide abduction alert plan and its ability to enhance local plans by working with the Missouri Department of Transportation to explore the possibility of using electronic highway message boards to distribute information to the public, and the ability of a statewide program to coordinate communication across the state. A statewide plan would be able to facilitate the coordination of different programs to cross jurisdictional lines, both within the state and between Missouri and surrounding states.

Witnesses also supported expanding the use of the existing Emergency Alert System (EAS) currently used by broadcasters to issue weather alerts to be used for abduction alerts as well as homeland security alerts. Testimony indicated that the use of the EAS system would be particularly helpful in issuing an abduction alert in a rural area of the state.

The role of the Missouri State Highway Patrol in a statewide abduction alert plan is the third area that concerned many witnesses. Testimony indicated that the Highway Patrol is reluctant to be an active participant in determining whether to activate an abduction alert, unless there is no local or regional program in place. One witness suggested that a statewide abduction alert plan could be structured in such a way that it is part of a two-tiered alert plan in areas where a local plan exists. In such circumstances, the alert would initially be issued on the local level, and then would be issued on a statewide level if circumstances warranted. The Missouri State Highway Patrol would be involved in coordinating the issuance of a statewide alert, and should also be more involved in issuing an abduction alert in areas of the state that do not have local or regional abduction alert plans in place. Witnesses also testified that the Highway Patrol could assist smaller law enforcement agencies in dealing with calls responding to an abduction alert.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Any statewide abduction alert plan that is instituted in Missouri should not supplant any local program. Local law enforcement agencies that do not have local plans are strongly encouraged to create them. In the absence of a local plan, the Missouri State Highway Patrol should be responsible for issuing an abduction alert and coordinating the statewide alert to ensure those localities are fully covered.

The key to making these programs work is that they involve a voluntary agreement between law enforcement agencies and the media in a local area. It is also important to allow local law enforcement agencies to make decisions about the criteria for local plans based on the particular characteristics of the local community.

2. A statewide abduction alert plan should include three minimal criteria as guidance for local law enforcement agencies. These three criteria are:

a. Law enforcement officials confirm that the individual has been abducted;

b. Law enforcement officials believe the circumstances surrounding the abduction indicate the individual is in danger of serious bodily harm or death; and

c. There must be enough descriptive information about the abducted individual, the suspected abductor, or the suspect's vehicle so that broadcasting an alert to the public will help the case.

3. The Committee specifically finds that age should not be a criterion in a statewide abduction alert plan.

4. The Missouri State Highway Patrol's role in a statewide abduction alert plan should be to coordinate the statewide abduction alert plan, and to be the primary agency for issuing an alert in counties that do not have local plans.

5. All abduction alert plans should be as broad-based as possible to maximize the number of citizens who see, hear, or are otherwise made aware of the abduction alert.

Existing programs, programs that are in the development stage, and future programs are encouraged to notify groups such as local utility companies, transportation agencies, truck drivers, factories, schools, alarm companies, convenience stores, postal service workers, and any other group that is able to pass on the information contained in an abduction alert so as to increase law enforcement's ability to notify as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.

6. Statewide law enforcement agencies are encouraged to immediately begin implementation of a statewide abduction alert plan.



APPENDIX A

Witnesses – Springfield, Missouri

October 21, 2002

Chief Lynn Rowe, Springfield Police Department
Sue Schofield, Springfield Police Department
Detective Jim Arnott, Greene County Sheriff's Department
Ron Carrier, Missouri Attorney General's Office
Lt. Tim Rousset, Missouri State Highway Patrol
Sgt. Kaverne McCullom, Missouri State Highway Patrol
Becky Marsolf, Polk County Sheriff's Department

Witnesses – Kansas City, Missouri

October 21, 2002

Alvin Brooks, Kansas City City Council
Katheryn Shields, Jackson County Executive
Sheriff Tom Phillips, Jackson County Sheriff
Major Cy Ritter, Kansas City Police Department
Sheriff Richard Anderson, Platte County Sheriff
Timothy Smith, Missouri Fraternal Order of Police, Kansas City Police Officers' Association
Lt. Mark Misenhelfer, Liberty Police Department
Dennis Overbey, Missouri State Highway Patrol
Tammy Glick, Platte County Prosecuting Attorney

Witnesses – Jefferson City, Missouri

October 22, 2002

Lt. Wayne Conway, Missouri State Highway Patrol
Jim Biggerstaff, Missouri State Highway Patrol
Don Hicks, Missouri Broadcasters Association
Sgt. Wayne Rapier, Rolla Police Department
Sheldon Lineback, Missouri Police Chiefs Association
James Klahr, Missouri Attorney General's Office

Witnesses – St. Charles, Missouri

October 22, 2002

Don Kissell, Missouri Police Chiefs Association
Chief Terry Milam, City of St. John
Kyle Marquart, Missouri State Highway Patrol
Pat McCarrick, St. Charles Police Department

APPENDIX B

Greene County Sheriff's Department
Springfield, MO

MEMORANDUM

TO: Greene County Patrol Officers, Communication Division and Detective Division.

FROM: Chief Martin

DATE: September 17, 2001

SUBJECT: Protocol for missing persons

As most of you know, since the Amanda Morton incident, we have been working with the various agencies to come up with some type of plan to assist in getting the word out to other police agencies, news media, and the general public when we determine we have a legitimate abduction. There are several computer programs available that are designed to assist law enforcement with these type of incidents. After numerous meetings with law enforcement and the companies who make these computer programs available, we have purchased a program known as the *Child Alert System* (C. A. S.). This program has been installed in our communication center, and is now available for our use.

The primary concern of those attending the meetings is that the system will be utilized for incidents that are not bona fide abductions or missing persons. In order for the system to work properly, we must depend on the media, and the public to respond to the entries in a positive way. If they become accustomed to seeing a lot of entries that later prove to be unfounded, the system will lose it's effectiveness.

We are currently in the process of putting together a Policy and Procedure concerning the criteria to follow for using the Child Alert System when we have a suspected abduction or missing person. Until this Policy and Procedure is completed, the following protocol should be followed.

1. Circumstances, not age, will determine if law enforcement and the media initiate the procedure for notifying the public of a missing person.
2. Law enforcement will only engage the services of the media for serious situations. In order to qualify as a serious situation, the following criteria must be met:
 - a. The police must believe the missing person has been abducted and is in danger of serious

bodily harm or death.

b. The police have conducted an investigation that has verified the abduction or ruled out an alternative explanation.

c. The missing person has a verifiable/documented medical condition that would endanger their life if they were not located within a short period of time.

3. In addition, any member of the Greene County Sheriff's Department called to investigate an abduction or suspicious missing person, shall request assistance from the Greene County Sheriff's Department, Detective Division. The final decision to utilize the Child Alert System will be the responsibility of Captain Larbey.



T. H. Martin

Springfield

23

LAW ENFORCEMENT/MEDIA MEETING SUMMARY JULY 24, 2001

The following are the preliminary areas in which law enforcement and the media have agreed with regard to a unified response in situations where a person is reported missing or disappears under suspicious circumstances:

- #1 - Circumstances, not age criteria, will determine if the law enforcement and media initiate the procedure for notifying the public of a missing person.
- #2 - Law enforcement will only engage the services of the media for serious situations. In order to qualify as a serious situation, the following criteria must be met:
 - a. The police must believe the missing person has been abducted and is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
 - b. The police have conducted an investigation that has verified the abduction or ruled out an alternative explanation.
 - c. The missing person has a verifiable/documented medical condition that would endanger their life if they were not located within a short period of time.
- #3 - The media representatives have agreed to network among themselves to make sure that the proper information is disseminated in a timely fashion.
- #4 - Proposed central repositories to be utilized as dissemination points to get information out to the media are:
 - a. Springfield P.D./Springfield Greene County 911 Center
 - b. Troop D Headquarters on Kearney Street
 - c. Stone County Sheriff's Department 911
 - d. Greene County Sheriff's Department
 - e. Christian County Sheriff's Department
 - f. Lawrence County Sheriff's Department
 - g. Republic Police Department
- #5 - The media has tentatively agreed to the following:
 - a. Television will air information about the missing person every 15 to 30 minutes via special live breaks or crawls across the screen.
 - b. Radio will announce at a minimum information about the missing person every fifteen minutes or less.
 - c. Media web-sites will be used where available to get information out to the public about missing persons.

March 29, 2000

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM NO. 00-5

SUBJECT: Amber Alert Program *KC*

I. INTRODUCTION

The Amber Alert is a cooperative plan between radio/television stations and local law enforcement. The plan calls for law enforcement agencies to provide media outlets with critical information concerning a confirmed child abduction, which could assist in locating the child. This plan is designed to locate abducted children within hours of the abduction. Police fax descriptive information regarding the victim (and suspect if known) to the media, who then interrupt programming to relay the information to the public. In the Kansas City, Missouri area, information from the public will be phoned in to the TIPS Hotline and relayed to the initiating agency.

II. POLICY

The following policy is designed to serve as a guideline to all participants in effectively and efficiently implementing an alert:

- A. Information disseminated by law enforcement will conform to their respective department policies and state statutes.
- B. All pertinent information gathered at the time of the reported abduction will be disseminated to the media to the extent that it is deemed to assist in locating the child, and it conforms with Section II, A of this memorandum.
- C. Information regarding the victim will be as detailed as possible including the name of the child, unless in the judgement of the initiating agency the release of the child's name would be damaging or injurious.
- D. Information regarding the suspect, if known, will also be as specific as possible. Should a witness identify the suspect by name, he/she will not be named as suspect but only as someone police are interested in interviewing regarding the abduction.
- E. Before an alert is initiated, the following two criteria must be met:

1. The child is 15 years of age or younger, or with a proven mental or physical disability, and;
 2. Police must believe the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- F. If the above two criteria are not met, an alert will not be initiated. Care must be given not to over use this program so as not to decrease its effectiveness and damage its credibility.
- G. Final authority for the initiation of an alert rests with the Metro Squad Board.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Patrol Bureau Responsibilities

1. Field personnel will gather and assess pertinent information at the scene of a reported child abduction.
2. A supervisor will determine if the two criteria have been met to activate an Amber Alert.
 - (a) The child is 15 years of age or younger, or with a proven mental or physical disability, and;
 - (b) Police must believe the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
3. If the two criteria have been met, the supervisor will immediately complete the Child Abduction Notification Sheet, Form 262 P.D., and make the following notifications:
 - (a) Call the Media Relations Office at (816) 234-5170 during business hours. After business hours, call the Communications Unit supervisor at (816) 889-6160 to contact the on call Media Relations officer.
 - (b) Notify the Sex Crimes Section and any other appropriate investigative element.
 - (c) As soon as possible, fax the Child Abduction Notification Sheet, Form 262 P.D., to the Media Relations Office at (816) 889-6037, the Communications Unit at (816) 889-6101, and the Sex Crimes

Section at (816) 889-6032.

- 4. The above responsibilities will be followed in addition to all other existing procedures, e.g., crime scene investigation, offense reporting, etc.

B. Media Relations Office Responsibilities

- 1. Receive information from the Child Abduction Notification Sheet, Form 262 P.D.
- 2. Obtain final approval from the Metro Squad Board.
- 3. Ensure that the Communications Unit has received their copy of the fax in the event that they begin receiving phone calls.
- 4. Notify the TIPS Hotline Coordinator or Assistant Coordinator that the Amber Alert has been initiated.
- 5. Disseminate the Child Abduction Notification Sheet to all media outlets and to the TIPS Hotline office.
- 6. Follow up with phone calls to verify that the fax has been received.
- 7. Cancel the alert as soon as the situation dictates.

C. Communications Unit Responsibilities

- 1. If after hours, notify the on-call Media Relations Officer.
- 2. Receive information from the Child Abduction Notification Sheet, Form 262 P.D.
- 3. Make appropriate notifications to area agencies regarding the incident.

D. Investigative Element Responsibilities

The investigative element responsible for the follow-up investigation will designate personnel to assist the TIPS Hotline in receiving phone calls, if needed, and will notify the TIPS Coordinator or Assistant Coordinator with pertinent personnel information.

E. Crime Stoppers TIPS HOTLINE Responsibilities

- 1. Receive information relating to the alert.
- 2. Coordinate with the investigative element responsible for the follow-up investigation if additional personnel are needed to receive phone calls.
- 3. Relay pertinent information as soon as possible to the investigative element as well as any agency(s), which may need to take immediate action.

F. Local Media Outlets Responsibilities

- 1. Radio stations will broadcast the information on the Child Abduction Notification Sheet, Form 262 P.D., as soon as practical.
- 2. Television stations will begin "Crawls" at the bottom of television screens to disseminate information as soon as practical.
- 3. Periodically repeat alert information at intervals determined by the media outlet.
- 4. Utilize alert information on all regularly scheduled news broadcasts.
- 5. It is requested that the duration of the alert be a minimum of four hours following initiation.
- 6. Refer all inquiries to the TIPS Hotline.

Richard D. Easley
Chief of Police

DISTRIBUTION: All Department Personnel
Department Elements
Post on bulletin board for two weeks.

St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert

*"A cooperative effort to safely
recover kidnapped children"*



For distribution to

***PARTICIPATING
MEDIA/LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES***

Prepared by
Chief Terry Milam
St. John, MO Police Department

Sgt. Jim Dahm
Belleville, IL Police Department

John Butler-News Director
KMOX Radio, News Talk 1120

Table of Contents

St. Louis Regional S.A.R.A.A. Plan Overview/Criteria 3

Law Enforcement Procedures..... 5

Notification FAX Form (*Blank*).....7

Notification FAX Cover Sheet (*Completed Sample*).....8

Notification FAX Form (*Completed Sample*).....9

KMOX Procedures.....10

EAS Civil Emergency Message Format.....12

Media Outlet Procedures.....13

Registration Form.....15

S.A.R.A.A. Committee Members.....16

Participating Radio/Television Stations.....17

Frequently Asked Questions.....18

St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert (S.A.R.A.A.)

*Plan Overview/Criteria**

The St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert, (S.A.R.A.A.), is based on the *Amber Plan* which originated in the Dallas/Fort Worth Texas Area. Developed by the Association of Radio Managers in cooperation with Dallas area law enforcement agencies, (after the January 1996 abduction and murder of nine-year-old Amber Hagerman of Arlington, Texas), the original *Amber Plan* called for the use of the Emergency Alert system to distribute timely abduction information to radio listeners in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Under both the S.A.R.A.A. and *Amber* plans, the public plays a key role in assisting in the safe recovery of the kidnapped child. The public is alerted to "be-on-the-lookout" for the child, alleged abductor or the alleged abductor's vehicle and to report any information to the issuing law enforcement agency immediately. Because of the extensive media coverage, the abductor is encouraged to immediately release the child for fear of being caught. The goal of these anti-kidnapping plans is the safe and speedy recovery of the kidnapped child.

Since July 1997, the Dallas/Fort Worth *Amber Plan* has been activated 30 times and eight children have been safely recovered. At least three states and six other cities have implemented similar Amber Plans in their jurisdictions.

The St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert is a cooperative effort between the area's law enforcement, radio, and television stations. It will utilize the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and serve all of the 15 counties that are part of the St. Louis EAS Operation with KMOX-AM 1120 acting as the primary EAS station. (Counties served in Illinois primarily include: Bond; Clinton; Jersey; Madison; Monroe; Randolph; St. Clair and Washington. Those in Missouri are: Franklin; Jefferson; Lincoln; St. Charles; St. Louis; Warren and St. Louis City.)

Local law enforcement agencies will notify KMOX by phone and fax about any child kidnapping. KMOX will verify the agency's information and activate EAS to broadcast a S.A.R.A.A. notification. In addition to EAS, KMOX will also distribute the S.A.R.A.A. notification by broadcast fax to all participating media outlets.

Participating radio and television outlets agree to re-broadcast the S.A.R.A.A. at least twice an hour for the first two (4) hours. After that time period, stations will broadcast additional alerts every hour for the next (20) hours. After that time, they can decide whether or not to continue additional news bulletin or regular newscast coverage.

If updated information is received about the kidnapped child or alleged suspect, the law enforcement agency will re-contact KMOX and request that a S.A.R.A.A. Update be issued. Updates will also be re-broadcast at least twice an hour for the next two hours.

If the child is found (whether hours or even days later), the law enforcement agency will notify KMOX to broadcast a S.A.R.A.A. Cancellation. The S.A.R.A.A. Cancellation will be re-broadcast only once by participating media outlets.

Experts stress that speed is essential in distributing child kidnapping information, as the first few hours after an abduction are the most crucial. The S.A.R.A.A. message will encourage the public to look for the kidnapped child and to call the police immediately if they have any information to assist in the child's safe

recovery. Citizens are not expected to take "police action" and they will be advised that they should not attempt to apprehend or arrest anyone. This quick and repeated Emergency Alert System coverage on multiple media outlets will not only raise public awareness about the kidnapping, but will encourage the suspect to immediately release the child for fear of being caught.

The S.A.R.A.A. plan Committee will meet as needed to review S.A.R.A.A. activations and to modify the St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert plan as needed.

The S.A.R.A.A. plan requires a registered supervisor at a participating law enforcement agency to verify four specific criteria prior to sending out a request for a S.A.R.A.A. Notification. The four criteria consist of:

1. The child is 16 years of age or younger and the law enforcement agency believes the child has been kidnapped (unwillingly taken from their environment without permission from the child's parent or legal guardian) as defined in 720 ILCS 5/10-1(a) (1-3), 720 ILCS 5/10-2 (a)(1-5) and 720 ILCS 5/10-5(b)(10) and Missouri Statute 565.110.
2. The law enforcement agency believes the child is in danger of serious great bodily harm or death.
3. A law enforcement investigation has taken place that verified the kidnapping or eliminated alternative explanations.
4. Sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the kidnapped child, alleged suspect, or the alleged suspect's vehicle.

If all 4 of the above criteria are not met, do not request a S.A.R.A.A. broadcast.

The following situations are examples when the S.A.R.A.A. would be met:

- ◆ A child is kidnapped off the street
- ◆ A child is kidnapped from his/her home
- ◆ Kidnappings where a child is taken by an adult without parental consent
- ◆ A vehicle is stolen or carjacked and a child was left inside the vehicle
- ◆ A child is reported missing, there is evidence of foul play, and police believe the child was kidnapped.

The following situations do not meet the S.A.R.A.A. criteria:

- ◆ Missing children who have run away from home
- ◆ Missing children involved in child custody disputes (parental kidnappings)
- ◆ Missing person is 17 years of age or older
- ◆ Police searches for criminals (murder suspects, bank robbers, etc)

**Note: The following is based upon the Houston, TX Regional Amber Plan.*

St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert (S.A.R.A.A.)

Law Enforcement Procedures

Purpose:

To establish proper and consistent procedures to be followed in the event of a child kidnapping with the intent to provide the greatest chance for the safe return of the abducted child and the quick apprehension of the suspect. The St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert has the potential to save a child's life.

Background Information:

The initial 4 hours after a child has been abducted are the most critical. The local broadcast media has the ability to provide timely information to the greater St. Louis metropolitan area concerning a child kidnapping. Participating radio and television stations have agreed to interrupt their regular programming and broadcast descriptions of the child, alleged suspect, and the alleged suspect's vehicle. This quick and repeated Emergency Alert System coverage on multiple media outlets will not only raise public awareness but will encourage the suspect to immediately release the child for fear of being caught.

Law Enforcement Procedures:

- A law enforcement supervisor will be responsible for making the decision to activate the S.A.R.A.A. This decision will be made after reviewing the facts and circumstances of the incident. The supervisor will verify that the incident meets the S.A.R.A.A. notification criteria:
 1. The child is 16 years of age or younger and the law enforcement agency believes the child has been kidnapped as defined in 720 ILCS 5/10-1(a) (1-3), 720 ILCS 5/10-2 (a)(1-5) and 720 ILCS 5/10-5(b)(10) and Missouri Statute 565.110.
 2. The law enforcement agency believes the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
 3. A law enforcement investigation has taken place that verified the kidnapping or eliminated alternative explanations.
 4. Sufficient information is available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the child, alleged suspect, or the alleged suspect's vehicle.
- If the 4 criteria listed above are not met, the law enforcement supervisor should not request a S.A.R.A.A. There may also be other confidential circumstances involving a child kidnapping in which the law enforcement agency decides not to request a S.A.R.A.A.
- When all 4 criteria are met, the supervisor can complete the S.A.R.A.A. Notification Fax Form. *(See page 7 for blank sample and page 9 for a completed sample)*
- The law enforcement supervisor will call the KMOX news editor at (314) 444-3234 or if no answer (314) 444-3256 to notify KMOX that a S.A.R.A.A. Notification Fax Form is being faxed to (314) 588-1234. These phone and fax numbers are confidential.
- KMOX's news editor will review the fax and confirm that all four S.A.R.A.A. notification criteria have been met and verify that the fax contains all the information needed to issue a S.A.R.A.A. and activate EAS. The news editor will use the facilities of KMOX to place the S.A.R.A.A. into proper EAS format. The news editor may change the wording of the law enforcement agency's message (but not the facts) to ensure the message is clear, concise, and complete.

- The news editor will call back the reporting law enforcement supervisor to acknowledge receipt of the fax, ask any additional questions, and to obtain the supervisor's approval of the final wording of the S.A.R.A.A. to be broadcast on KMOX and distributed by EAS broadcast FAX.
- A text copy of the S.A.R.A.A. broadcast by KMOX will be faxed to the issuing law enforcement agency.
- The reporting law enforcement supervisor is cautioned to ensure that his/her agency is properly staffed to handle a large volume of incoming telephone calls that may result from a S.A.R.A.A. Additional staffing may also be needed to follow up on the leads received. The telephone number given to the public in the S.A.R.A.A. must be a telephone number (other than 911) capable of handling multiple incoming lines.
- The law enforcement supervisor is cautioned to inform his/her own agency's personnel of the S.A.R.A.A. case and message. This notification should include dispatchers, patrol officers, immediate supervisors, detectives, command staff, media relations, etc.
- Officers should always try to obtain a recent photograph of the missing child. This photograph should be taken with the intent of transmitting it to all television and print media outlets in the St. Louis Metropolitan area.
- As updated information about the child or alleged suspect is available, the law enforcement supervisor should send timely updates to KMOX using the same procedures outlined above.
- Once the child is found or the case is closed, the supervisor must cancel the S.A.R.A.A. by calling KMOX then faxing another S.A.R.A.A. Cancellation Fax Form providing the recovery or closure information.
- For test or training purposes, the law enforcement supervisor must call the KMOX news editor on duty in advance to schedule a test transmission. At the agreed-upon time, the supervisor will fax a S.A.R.A.A. form marked "TEST ONLY; DO NOT AIR" to KMOX. The news editor on duty will call the supervisor back to verify receipt of the test, but KMOX will take no further action.
- Law enforcement agencies that want to participate in the St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert program must fax a completed Registration Form (see page 15) to the St. Clair County IL Sheriff's Department, (Special Attention: Sgt. Steve Johnson-Administrative Assistant), 618-277-4213. The registration form must identify two supervisor-level personnel authorized to issue S.A.R.A.A. notifications, serve as primary and secondary contact persons for the agency.
- After each S.A.R.A.A. activation, the law enforcement supervisor agrees to meet with the S.A.R.A.A. Committee to review the case, evaluate whether proper procedures were followed by all participants, and recommend any changes in agency procedures of the St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert plan.
- Law enforcement agencies are encouraged to incorporate these S.A.R.A.A. guidelines into their own department's child kidnapping protocol and train appropriate personnel in S.A.R.A.A. procedures.
- Law enforcement agencies with additional questions should contact the law enforcement Co-Chairs of the St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert Committee:
 - > Chief Terry Milam, St. John, MO P.D. (314)-427-8706 tmilam@cityofstjohn.org
 - > Sgt. Jim Dahm, Belleville, IL P.D. (618)-234-1218 ext. 746 sgtdahm@bellevillepolice.org

St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert (S.A.R.A.A.)

Notification Fax Form *(Blank Sample)*

S.A.R.A.A. Notification Criteria:

Please circle your response. If all 4 answers are YES, complete the remaining form. Call the KMOX news editor at (314) 444-3234 if no answer (314) 444-3256 then fax completed form to (314) 588-1234

1. The child is 16 years old or younger and I believe the child has been kidnapped Yes / No
2. I believe the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death. Yes / No
3. An agency investigation has verified the kidnapping or eliminated alternative explanations. Yes / No
4. Sufficient information is available that could help locate the child, suspect, or vehicle. Yes / No

Date: _____ Time: _____ Agency Case Number: _____

Child's name: _____ Age: _____

Name of County/State where kidnapping occurred: _____

Law enforcement agency name: _____

Supervisor's rank, first & last name: _____

Supervisor's phone number: () _____

Supervisor's fax number: () _____

Supervisor's e-mail address: _____

This agency requests activation of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for:

S.A.R.A.A. Notification Update Cancellation

Test only; do not air

S.A.R.A.A. Message: (PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONSULT WITH YOUR PROSECUTING/CITY ATTORNEY TO DETERMINE WHAT INFORMATION WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THIS SECTION.)

Describe the kidnapping or recovery, description of child, alleged suspect and alleged suspect's vehicle. Include area code/phone number that the public should call to report any information.

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
CITY OF BELLEVILLE

101 South Illinois, Belleville, IL 62220
(618) ***-****
Fax (618) ***-****

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION SHEET

(SAMPLE)

Date: 01-09-01

To: KMOX RADIO

Fax Phone #: (314) 588-1234

Attention: NEWS EDITOR

From: LT. JOHN SMITH

Telephone #: (618) ***-****

Subject:

SPECIAL ATTENTION

ST. LOUIS AREA REGIONAL
ABDUCTION ALERT (S.A.R.A.A.)
NOTIFICATION EMERGENCY
MESSAGE

This is page 1 of 2

If you have any questions regarding this transmission, please call the sender at the telephone number and extension that is listed.

NOTICE

This facsimile contains CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, WHICH MAY ALSO BE LEGALLY PRIVILEGED. It is intended only for the use of the person named above. If this facsimile is not addressed to you and you are not responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this facsimile is strictly prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the facsimile to us at the above address via the U.S. Postal Service. Thank you.

St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert (S.A.R.A.A.)

Notification Fax Form (Completed Sample)

S.A.R.A.A. Notification Criteria:

Please circle your response. If all 4 answers are YES, complete the remaining form. Call the KMOX News Editor at (314) 444-3234 or if no answer (314) 444-3256 then fax completed form to (314) 588-1234.

1. The child is 16 years old or younger and I believe the child has been abducted. Yes / No Yes No
2. I believe the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death. Yes / No Yes No
3. An agency investigation has verified the kidnapping or eliminated alternative explanations. Yes / No Yes No
4. Sufficient information is available that could help locate the child, suspect, or vehicle. Yes / No Yes No

Date: 01-09-01 Time: 2:30 p.m. Agency Case Number: 00-1234578
Child's name: Jane Doe Age: 9
Name of County/State where kidnapping occurred: St. Clair, Illinois
Law enforcement agency name: Belleville Illinois Police Department
Supervisor's rank, first & last name: LT John Smith
Supervisor's phone number: (618) ***-**** Extension ***
Supervisor's fax number: (618) ***-****
Supervisor's e-mail address: lsmith@bpd.org

This agency requests activation of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for:

S.A.R.A.A. Notification Update Cancellation

Test only; do not air

S.A.R.A.A. Message: (PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONSULT WITH YOUR PROSECUTING/CITY ATTORNEY TO DETERMINE WHAT INFORMATION WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THIS SECTION.)

Describe the abduction or recovery, description of child, alleged suspect and alleged suspect's vehicle. Include area code/phone number that the public should call to report any information.

*At approximately 2:30 p.m. today, a white female suspect (approximately 35 years old, 5'05" tall, 135 pounds, long brown hair, wearing a blue short sleeve shirt) was seen pulling a child, later identified as Jane Doe, into a red Chevrolet pick-up truck (Illinois license plate number ABCDEFG) in the 1200 block of Brokenheart Drive in Belleville. Jane Doe is nine years of age, and she has short blond hair, blue eyes, and was last seen wearing a red t-shirt, blue shorts and pink tennis shoes. The pickup truck was last seen heading south on N. 147th Street towards IL 157. Anyone seeing this missing child, vehicle, or suspect should call their local police Department or the Belleville Police Department immediately at (618)***-****.*

(PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONSULT WITH YOUR PROSECUTING/CITY ATTORNEY TO DETERMINE WHAT INFORMATION WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THIS SECTION.)

St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert (S.A.R.A.A.)

KMOX Procedures

Purpose:

To provide the Kmox news editor, anchor, and producer on duty with instructions about how to verify and write a S.A.R.A.A., broadcast the message on KMOX using the Emergency Alert System, then distribute the text of the S.A.R.A.A. by broadcast fax to other media outlets. Procedures are also included for testing the S.A.R.A.A. plan.

Background Information:

KMOX-AM 1120 is designated the primary Emergency Alert System (EAS) station for the St. Louis Metropolitan area. In case KMOX is knocked off the air, WIL is the secondary EAS station.

The S.A.R.A.A. plan adopted in this area allows participating law enforcement agencies to request activation of the Emergency Alert System for a S.A.R.A.A. notification as a "Civil Emergency Message" (CEM). This is the same category used by city and county offices of emergency management for flood or hurricane evacuations, hazardous material releases, etc. that require public protective measures.

Unlike routine weather watches and warnings, other radio/TV stations will not have quick, easy access to the text of the S.A.R.A.A., so KMOX will relay the S.A.R.A.A. message to other participating media outlets using the broadcast fax system.

KMOX Procedures:

- A law enforcement supervisor will call the news editor on duty at (314) 444-3234 or if no answer (314) 444-3256 to notify KMOX that a S.A.R.A.A. Notification is being faxed to (314) 588-1234. (These phone and fax numbers are confidential.)
- KMOX's news editor will review the fax to make sure all four S.A.R.A.A. Criteria have been met and verify that the fax contains all the information needed to issue a S.A.R.A.A. Notification and activate EAS. The news editor will use the KMOX newsroom computer system to write the S.A.R.A.A. into proper EAS format. (See page 12.) The news editor may change the wording of the law enforcement agency's message (but not the facts) to ensure the message is clear, concise, and complete.
- The news editor will call back the law enforcement supervisor to acknowledge receipt of the fax, ask any additional questions, and to obtain the supervisor's approval of the final wording of the S.A.R.A.A. message to be broadcast on KMOX and distributed by EAS broadcast fax.
- KMOX will then broadcast fax the S.A.R.A.A. to all participating radio/television stations.
- The news editor should provide a copy of the S.A.R.A.A. Notification to the anchor and notify the producer on duty to program the Emergency Alert System encoder as follows:
 - > The originator code must be "EAS"
 - > The event code must be "Civil Emergency Message"
 - > The location code must include all 15 counties that are part of the St. Louis EAS Operation area.
 - > The time code (or duration) must be 4 hours (or +0400)

- KMOX will interrupt regular programming and activate the Emergency Alert System. (See pages 12-14.) The EAS header code, eight-second attention signal, and end-of-message code are all required by the FCC in order to trip and release EAS decoders at participating radio, and TV outlets in the St. Louis metropolitan area.
- After the S.A.R.A.A. is transmitted using EAS, the news editor can decide whether or not to assign a reporter to interview the law enforcement supervisor or cover the search for the kidnapped child as part of regular news coverage.
- KMOX will repeat the S.A.R.A.A. message at least twice an hour for the next four hours. Only the initial S.A.R.A.A. message requires EAS activation.
- As updated information about the case is available (such as a better description of the child or suspect, a new search location or an actual sighting), the law enforcement supervisor should call the KMOX news editor, then fax a S.A.R.A.A. Fax Form marked "Update" providing the updated information.
- The KMOX news editor will follow the same procedures outlined above to write a S.A.R.A.A. Update, send it to the participating stations, and broadcast the update on KMOX. If any S.A.R.A.A. Update(s) are received during the initial four hour time period, no further EAS activation is required. KMOX will repeat any S.A.R.A.A. Update message at least twice an hour for the next two hours after reception of same.
- Once the child is found or the case is closed, the law enforcement supervisor must cancel the S.A.R.A.A. notification by calling KMOX then faxing a S.A.R.A.A. Fax Form marked "Cancellation" providing recovery or closure information.
- The KMOX news editor will follow the same procedures outlined above to write a S.A.R.A.A. Cancellation, send it to all S.A.R.A.A. participating stations, and broadcast the cancellation on KMOX using EAS. The time code (or duration) for the EAS encoder should be 15 minutes (+0015). The S.A.R.A.A. Cancellation is only broadcast once using EAS. Any further news coverage of the story is at the discretion of the news editor.
- For test or training purposes, the law enforcement supervisor must call the KMOX news editor on duty in advance to schedule a test transmission. At the agreed-upon time, the supervisor will fax a S.A.R.A.A. Notification form marked "Test only; do not air" to KMOX. The news editor on duty will call back the law enforcement supervisor to verify receipt of the test, but KMOX will take no further action.
- KMOX will incorporate these S.A.R.A.A. guidelines into its newsroom operating procedures and provide proper training for all its news editors and staff.
- KMOX personnel that receive tips from the public about a S.A.R.A.A. case should immediately relay those tips to the issuing law enforcement agency.
- KMOX personnel with additional questions should contact their news director.

17

St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert (S.A.R.A.A.)

EAS Civil Emergency Message Format

1. Stop regular programming
2. Optional Intro:
"We interrupt our programming to activate the St. Louis, Missouri Emergency Alert System. Important information will follow."
3. One-second pause (no audio)
4. Send EAS Header Code three times (3 times is required to trip EAS decoders)

The Originator Code must be "EAS"
The Event Code must be "Civil Emergency Message"
The Location Code must be the County where the abduction occurred.
The Time Code (or duration) should be four hours (+0400)
5. One-second pause (no audio)
6. Eight-second Attention Signal (853 and 960 Hz tones)
7. Activation Announcement:
"We interrupt our programming to activate the St. Louis, Missouri Emergency Alert System."
8. S.A.R.A.A. message:

"The (name of law enforcement agency) requests activation of the Emergency Alert System to broadcast a (S.A.R.A.A. Notification, Update, or Cancellation) for (county where abduction occurred) County until (clock time in 4 hours).

(Insert law enforcement agency's S.A.R.A.A. message here. The message must include an area code and telephone number other than 911 that the Public should call to report any information about the case to the law enforcement agency.)
9. Termination Announcement:
"This concludes activation of the St. Louis, Missouri Emergency Alert System."
10. One-second pause (no audio)
11. Send EAS End-of-message Code three times (3 times is needed to release all EAS decoders)
12. Resume normal programming

St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert (S.A.R.A.A.)

Media Outlet Procedures

S.A.R.A.A. Broadcast Procedures:

- The FCC has designated KMOX-AM 1120 as the Emergency Alert System's primary station for the St. Louis area.
- A law enforcement agency supervisor will contact KMOX to request activation of the Emergency Alert System to broadcast a S.A.R.A.A. "Notification", "Update", or "Cancellation" message. The supervisor will fax a written message to KMOX where the news editor will incorporate the message into EAS Civil Emergency Message format.
- KMOX will broadcast S.A.R.A.A. messages as a Civil Emergency Message for the counties that are part of the St. Louis EAS operation area. Participating radio and television stations should program their EAS encoders/decoders for the specific counties within the station's coverage area.
- Participating radio and television stations are encouraged to program their EAS encoders/decoders to automatic or semi-automatic mode in order to re-broadcast KMOX's audio of the Civil Emergency Message (S.A.R.A.A. Notification) within five (5) minutes of receipt. Re-broadcasting media outlets should not precede the audio with the EAS header codes. Use of the 8-second Attention Signal is not required for re-broadcast of S.A.R.A.A. messages.
- Radio and television stations that want to participate in the St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert program must fax a completed Registration Form (*see page 15*) to the St. Clair County IL Sheriff's Department, (*Special Attention: Sgt. Steve Johnson-Administrative Assistant*), 618-277-4213. The registration form must identify two supervisor-level personnel to serve as primary and secondary contact persons for the organization.
- Television stations that re-broadcast KMOX's audio of the Civil Emergency Message (S.A.R.A.A. Notification) should display a full-screen graphic of either the Emergency Alert System (EAS) logo or the S.A.R.A.A. logo. Copies of these logos are available from Sgt. Jim Dahm at sgtdahm@bellevillepolice.org or by calling (618) 234-1218 ext. 746.
- KMOX will also distribute all S.A.R.A.A. messages by broadcast fax to other participating broadcast and print media outlets. The newsroom or on-air control room should have 24-hour fax access.
- Instead of re-broadcasting the audio from KMOX, participating radio and television stations may use their own on-air staff to repeat the S.A.R.A.A. message.
- Participating television stations also have the option to provide a full-screen text summary or video crawl of the S.A.R.A.A. message distributed by fax. The video crawl should be displayed at the top of the screen or another location in order to prevent interference with any closed captioning system or character-generated supers.

- Participating radio and television stations agree to repeat any S.A.R.A.A. Notification at least once every half hour for the first four hours and then once an hour for the next twenty hours and any S.A.R.A.A. Update at least once every half hour for the next two hours.
- As updated information about the case is available (such as a better description of the child or suspect, the child's photograph, a new search location or actual sighting), the law enforcement agency will notify KMOX which will distribute a S.A.R.A.A. Update using the same EAS broadcast fax distribution system.
- The law enforcement agency will try to obtain a photo of the child for distribution to the media.

S.A.R.A.A. Cancellation:

- Once the child is located or the case is closed, the initiating law enforcement agency will notify KMOX which will distribute a S.A.R.A.A. Cancellation using the same EAS broadcast fax distribution system. The S.A.R.A.A. Cancellation should only be broadcast once; any further news coverage of the story is at the discretion of each media outlet.

S.A.R.A.A. Tips:

- Participating stations that receive tips from the public about a S.A.R.A.A. case should immediately relay those tips to the issuing law enforcement agency.

Other:

- KMOX will incorporate these S.A.R.A.A. guidelines into its newsroom operating procedures and provide proper training for all its news editors and staff.
- Participating radio/television stations with additional questions should contact one of the Co-Chairs of the St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert Committee:

Chief Terry Milam, St. John, MO P.D.	314-427-8706	tmilam@cityofstjohn.org
Sgt. Jim Dahm, Belleville, IL P.D.	618-234-1218 ext. 746	sgtdahm@bellevillepolice.org
John Butler, KMOX Radio News Talk 1120		314-444-3234

14

St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert (S.A.R.A.A.)

REGISTRATION FORM

Agency or company name:

Mailing address:

City:

County:

ZIP:

Primary Contact Person:

Job Title or Rank/Unit:

Work Phone:

Work Fax:

E-mail Address:

Secondary Contact Person:

Job Title or Rank/Unit:

Work Phone:

Work Fax:

E-mail Address:

We agree to participate in the St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert program and to abide by the procedures found in the S.A.R.A.A. Plan.

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(Chief Executive Officer)

**Please fax the completed Registration Form to the attention of: Sgt. Steve Johnson-
Administrative Assistant; c./o. St. Clair County IL Sheriff's Department (fax):
618-277-4213**

St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert (S.A.R.A.A.)

Questions and Answers

Q: What is the St. Louis Area Regional Abduction Alert?

A: S.A.R.A.A., (pronounced "Sarah"), is a cooperative effort between the broadcast media and local law enforcement in the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan area. S.A.R.A.A. calls for law enforcement agencies to provide radio/television stations with an alert upon the immediate confirmation of a child kidnapping. All participating stations will break programming to broadcast the alert and any subsequent information provided by the police.

Q: How will the broadcast media obtain the information about a child kidnapping?

A: Each participating law enforcement agency in the fifteen counties that are part of the St. Louis EAS Operating area will have a contact name and confidential fax number of the area's primary EAS station. The contact from the station will confirm the receipt and accuracy of the fax transmission and will alert the other radio/television stations participating in this service to the community through a subsequent fax transmission.

Q: When will S.A.R.A.A. be up and running?

A: January 9, 2001.

Q: Why is this program necessary?

A: The initial 4 hours after a child has been abducted are the most critical. Local broadcast media have the ability to provide timely information to the entire Greater St. Louis Metropolitan area and the S.A.R.A.A. message will encourage the public to look-on-the-lookout for the kidnapped child, and call the police immediately if they have any information to assist in the child's safe recovery. These messages will also encourage the alleged kidnapper to release the child immediately for fear of being caught.

Q: If I see a kidnapped child, should I take action and try to apprehend the alleged suspect?

A: Citizens are not expected to take "police action" and they should not attempt to apprehend or arrest anyone. Notify the police immediately instead.

Q: What is the policy of the radio/television stations should a citizen call to report the sighting of a kidnapped child or alleged suspect?

A: Each radio/television station will immediately relay these tips to the issuing law enforcement agency.

Q: Once the kidnapped child has been located, how will the S.A.R.A.A. be cancelled?

A: The issuing police agency will send a notice of cancellation to the area's primary EAS station. This will then be broadcast to all participating stations who will in turn notify the public.

Q: Can this program truly be successful and actually save a life?

A: Yes. As of September of 1999, a similar plan in the Dallas/Fort Worth TX area has been credited with saving the lives of eight abducted children.

