



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: *South Carolina Missing Child Alert System
(AMBER-Alert)* **Number:** *704-D*

Effective Date: *January 2, 2001*

Revised Date: *October 11, 2024*

Rescinds: <i>704- South Carolina Missing Child Alert System (AMBER-Alert)</i>	Dated: <i>01-02-2001</i>
<i>704-A – South Carolina Missing Child Alert System (AMBER-Alert)</i>	<i>11-06-2002</i>
<i>704-B – South Carolina Missing Child Alert System (AMBER-Alert)</i>	<i>01-18-2012</i>
<i>704-C – South Carolina Missing Child Alert System (AMBER-Alert)</i>	<i>07-14-2015</i>



Approved By:

I. PURPOSE

To set forth a written procedure for handling South Carolina Missing Child Alert System cases in compliance with a Governor's Executive Order signed August 28, 2002.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Missing Child Alert System (Also referred to as South Carolina AMBER Alert System): A State program designed to utilize modern mass-communication delivery systems to aid Law Enforcement Officials in the investigation and recovery of abducted or missing children under the age of 18, within the specific guidelines set forth by SLED.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. Criteria for Acceptance by the Missing Child Alert System.

1. The law enforcement agency believes that the child has been abducted (taken from their environment unlawfully, without authority

- of law, and without permission from the child's parent or legal guardian).
2. The child is 17 years old or younger, and the law enforcement agency believes the child is in immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death; or if the individual is 18 years old or older, and the law enforcement agency believes the individual is at a greater risk for immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death because the individual possesses a proven physical or mental disability.
 3. All other possibilities for the victim's disappearance have been reasonably excluded.
 4. There is sufficient information available to disseminate to the public that could assist in locating the victim, suspect, or vehicle used in the abduction.
 5. The child's name and other critical data, including the Child Abduction (CA) flag have been entered into NCIC. A record for a missing person who is under the age of 21 should be entered into NCIC using one of the appropriate categories within two (2) hours of receipt of the minimum data required to enter an NCIC record. Once it is determined there will be an activation, the entry will be modified to include the AMBER Alert (AA) flag.

B. PROTOCOL

1. Authorization to activate the AMBER Alert System is the sole responsibility of the Chief of Police. If unavailable, the Chief of Police may authorize a designee trained in this protocol to act on their behalf.
2. The investigating officer in a missing or abduction case involving a victim who meets the above listed criteria will verify the abduction and/or missing person status with their Supervisor.
3. The investigating officer will complete the AMBER Alert Entry Form. The form is available on-line at <https://www.sled.sc.gov/amberalert#forms>. The form may also be accessed in the Forms and Docs Drive.
4. The Watch Commander or designee will review the completed AMBER Alert Entry Form and forward it to the Chief of Police.
5. Upon determination that the case meets all the criteria for activation, the Chief or Police or designee will call SLED at the phone number listed on the AMBER Alert Entry Form.

6. The Chief of Police or designee will fax or email the approved AMBER Alert Entry Form along with photographs of the victim(s) and suspect(s), if available, to SLED.
7. The case will be assigned to the Family Services Unit for further investigation and follow-up.
 - i. If additional information relevant to the AMBER Alert is obtained, the assigned Investigator will complete an AMBER Alert Update Form and submit it through the chain of command to the Chief of Police or designee. Once approved, the Update Form will be submitted to SLED.
 - ii. If the victim(s) is found, the assigned Investigator will:
 - a. Immediately verify and complete the SC Amber Alert Cancellation Form and submit to SLED,
 - b. Ensure that the victim(s) is removed from NCIC, and
 - c. Ensure all appropriate paperwork is attached in the case file.

C. CONCLUSION

Nothing in this procedure should hinder or delay the investigation into the missing and/or abducted child or delay entry of the relevant information into the NCIC (National Crime Information Center) computer as per SLED, NCIC, CJIS, NLET policy.