

**CHILD ABDUCTION
RESPONSE TEAM
“CART”**

**AGREEMENT
FOR**

**THURSTON COUNTY
LAW ENFORCEMENT**

CHILD ABDUCTION RESPONSE TEAM

PURPOSE

It is in the best interest of the citizens of Thurston County for law and justice agencies in the County to cooperate and coordinate resources in the management of a Missing or Abducted Child Investigation; and whereas, a regional approach to Missing, Exploited, and Endangered Children Cases are complex, and in need of a large number of resources in order to protect the life and safety of a missing or abducted child. Our response to these cases must be swift, efficient, and effective.

GOALS

The overall goal of the Thurston County Child Abduction Response Team (CART) is to swiftly, effectively, and safely, find and return a missing or abducted child to their family.

Additional goals of the team are to:

1. Coordinate a law enforcement response to the incident.
2. Conduct a coordinated investigation.
3. Coordinate a systematic search for the victim/lost child
4. Initiate a Public Information System (PIO) and activate an Amber Alert if necessary.
5. Set up an Incident Command Structure
6. Coordinate resources from other agencies to assist in the investigation and assist the family.
7. Develop a case to hold offenders accountable.

TEAM MEMBER AGENCIES

Member Agencies: Participating Law Enforcement and Support Agencies that have aligned to implement, manage and maintain a regional Child Abduction Response Team also known as a CART Team. The purpose of this Agreement is to define the components of the Team, as well as the financial arrangements when deployed. All Member Agencies shall be voting members on the Executive Board. The current Member Agencies are:

1. Lacey Police Department;
2. Olympia Police Department;
3. Tumwater Police Department;
4. Yelm Police Department;

5. **Tenino Police Department**
6. **Thurston County Sheriff's Office;**
7. **Thurston County Prosecutors Office;**
8. **Thurston 911 Communications (TCOMM)**

Assist Agencies: Additional public safety agencies may be included as part of the CART Team as Assist Agencies. Examples would be the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Patrol, Washington State Department of Corrections, Child Protection Services, Joint Base Lewis McCord Law Enforcement, Children's Advocacy Center and any adjoining County services.

CART TEAM SUPERVISION

This Supervision Agreement is made and entered into among the Lacey Police Department; Olympia Police Department; Tumwater Police Department and the Thurston County Sheriff's Office. Each of these agencies agrees to rotate every two years into the LEAD AGENCY role and to provide a CART TEAM COORDINATOR (no agency should supervise the CART Team during the time period they are supervising the Officer Involved Critical Incident Team).

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

The following outlines the governance arrangement and structure for managing and maintaining the TEAM.

1. **Executive Board** – Will consist of the CEO's from the Member Agencies.
 - a. Will govern the administrative aspects of the CART Team and be responsible for the following:
 - i. Policy decisions.
 - ii. Approval of Supervisory Rotation.
 - iii. Assuring that the Team is operational.

2. **Lead Agency** – The Lead Agency is responsible for the following on behalf of the Executive Board:
 - a) Supervising, Leading, directing, during CART activations.
 - b) Hold quarterly Team meetings.
 - c) Ensuring the County wide Amber-Alert Plan is current.
 - d) Update members on training opportunities in Missing Children Cases.
 - e) Update and maintain the CART call-out Personnel List
 - f) Selection of a CART Coordinator: The coordinator should be a person of rank who has been sent to the appropriate Amber Alert -Department of Justice training course pertaining to Child Abduction Response Investigations.

- g) The CART Coordinator will respond to the incident and assist the venue agency with leading, directing, and coordinating a Missing Child Investigation.
- h) The CART Coordinator will carry out the above responsibilities as set forth by the Executive Board.

- 3. **Venue Agency**- The venue agency is the jurisdiction in which the child abduction occurred and that has the primary law enforcement responsibility to respond and investigate the incident. The venue agency will provide a person of rank to be a liaison to the CART Coordinator.

OPERATIONS

TEAM CALL-OUT: CART is a resource available to any member Law Enforcement agency in Thurston County. The following criteria are considerations for an activation.

- 1. The abducted/lost child must be under the age of 18 year of age.
- 2. Law Enforcement must believe the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily harm or death.

What Type of Missing Child Case is this:

Based on the available information, make an **initial** determination of the type of incident:

1. Non-family abduction **Team Call Out Advised**
Is when a child is taken by an unknown individual, through force or persuasion, usually in furtherance of additional victimization.

2. Family abduction **Team Call Out Advised**
Is where a noncustodial family member flees with a child, usually in violation of a court-order.

3. Lost **Contact/Call to CART Coordinator Advised**
Is a child who becomes separated from parents or caretakers under circumstances not indicating the likelihood of an abduction or voluntary absence.

4. Runaway **Not normally a CART call out.**
The runaway child, most often a teenager, who leaves home a variety of reasons.

5. Missing/Thrown-Away **Not normally a CART call out.**
The caretaker makes no effort to recover the child who has run away or who has been abandoned or deserted. While not necessarily reported to authorities as missing, children in this category frequently come to the attention of law enforcement.

NOTIFICATION PROTOCOL

Since time is a critical factor in the swift and safe recovery of a missing child, the on-duty supervisor of any police agency in Thurston County can call and consult with the CART Coordinator if they believe a CART activation is necessary. The CART Coordinator will determine if the Team will be activated.

TEAM MEMBERS DUTY TO RESPOND

CART members will respond as quickly as possible to the scene of a Missing or Abducted Child Case once a Team activation is broadcast. CART Team members who are unavailable are asked to call the 911 center and leave a message for the CART Team Coordinator that they are not available so additional resource decisions can be made in your absence.

COMMUNICATION

In the event an Amber Alert is broadcast, the Amber Alert Portal will be utilized. The jurisdiction of the incident (venue agency) is responsible for gathering the necessary information necessary for an Amber Alert. The officer will call the 911 center and a conference call to WSP Tacoma for Amber Alert Portal entry. WSP has agreed to handle this duty.

In the event of a CART activation, the tips and leads will be logged on a CART TIP FORM and entered in a data base.

Thurston County Emergency Management has agreed to open a call center to take incoming tips. The EOC will maintain a list of community volunteers who are trained and skilled at handling these incoming calls.

TEAM POSITIONS

The following positions may be filled during an activation. Positions may be filled by personnel from Member Agencies or Assist Agencies.

Venue Agency Supervisor: This is generally the person who requested the CART Team. This person will work with the CART Team Coordinator at the command post (until a Venue Agency Liaison is appointed). The Venue Agency Supervisor will assist with establishing a perimeter and containment. They will help lead, organize, and gather initial information. They will keep their agency administration apprised of the case developments.

CART Coordinator: The CART Coordinator is A Investigative Supervisor who has training and experience. This person will authorize a team deployment, respond to the scene, appoint a lead investigator, ensure the scene is contained, ensure the command post is set up, help organize, lead, direct, and call in appropriate resources for the successful return of a missing child.

Crime Analyst/Leads Coordinator: The Crime Analyst is responsible for making sure that all leads and tips are documented and logged into a central computer program. The Analyst will assist the lead detective by tracking leads, preparing maps, plotting sex offenders, DOC offenders, and other probable suspects. Helps the lead investigator keep in-coming information organized and timely.

Lead Investigator: The lead investigator is generally a detective with training and experience in Missing and Exploited Children investigations. This person is responsible for the case. This is the one person that all information should be channeled through so tactical decisions pertaining to the management of the case can take place. This person seeks assistance from the other investigators assigned to the team. The lead investigator consults with the deputy prosecutor for legal advice, and reports to the CART Coordinator and venue agency. The lead investigator will generally be the detective who re-interviews the family and the last person to see the missing child.

Investigator/Detective: Takes assignments and assists the lead investigator. Follows up on leads. Write reports and will assist by making and giving the lead investigator suggestions to help in the successful return of a missing child.

School Resource Officer: Takes assignments and assists the lead investigator. Follows up on leads. Helps coordinate information needed as a liaison with the schools. Gather school pictures if needed. Gathers a list of school classmates for further follow-up. Updates school officials with only need to know/right to know information.

Department of Corrections Officer: Takes assignments and assists the lead investigator. Follows up on leads. Write reports and will assist by making and giving the Incident Commanders suggestions to help in the successful return of a missing child. Helps with gathering DOC offender addresses near the last known location. Helps coordinate other DOC resources that maybe helpful during the investigation.

Public Information Officer: Writes press releases, meets with the media, and asks for the public's help. Puts out requests to locate the missing child. Arranges for a media contact point away from the command post so that the media does not interfere with the investigation. Works side by side with the venue agency PIO. Works closely with the lead investigator so only pertinent appropriate need to know/right to know information is published.

911 Communications Officer: Helps coordinate the Amber Alert notification by establishing a conference call to WSP Tacoma dispatch center. WSP Tacoma enters data into the Amber Alert Portal (TCSO as back-up). Maintains incident log in Tiburon CAD. Directs the news media to gathering points. Helps in coordinating radio traffic by moving the officers assigned to the incident to one common radio channel. Ensures that the CART Team roster is updated and available for activation.

FBI Agent: The FBI has extensive resources available such as a CARD team. The local FBI Agent should generally meet with the CART Coordinator and assist in bringing appropriate resources to the scene.

Deputy Prosecutor: The Deputy Prosecutor will assist with legal advice as the investigation progresses.

Victim Advocate: The Victim Advocate will respond to the scene and assist the lead investigator by establishing a rapport with the missing child's family and provide the necessary professional assistance as needed.

Search and Rescue Supervisor: The Search and Rescue Supervisor is responsible for documenting each area searched, listing name/rank/address/phone number of each searcher, and giving appropriate training to searchers so as not to contaminate a crime scene.

Other positions may be created as needed.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

The venue agency is the jurisdiction in which the child abduction occurred and that has the statutory law enforcement responsibility to respond and investigate the incident.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT


Equipment needed should be loaned at no cost to the venue agency.

The venue agency agrees that they will pay for the tip line that is established that is used to generate in-coming tips or activate an Amber Alert.

All members and assist agencies agree to dedicate personnel to CART at their own expense. Each agency enters into this agreement knowing that no one agency is equipped to handle an extensive, long-term missing child investigation on its own. The pooled resources are the most effective way to handle these cases and each party to this agreement will benefit from their participation if one of these cases occurs in their respective jurisdiction.


EFFECTIVE

This Agreement shall be effective after it is signed by all parties.



Chief ~~Dusty~~ Pierpoint *Scott Spencer, City Manager*
City of Lacey

Date 4/13/2012




Chief Ronnie Roberts
City of Olympia

Date 4/11/12



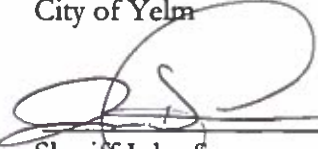
Chief John Stines
City of Tumwater

Date 3/22/2012




Chief Todd Stancil
City of Yelm

Date 2/21/2012



Sheriff John Snaza
Thurston County Sheriff's Office

Date 3-22-12



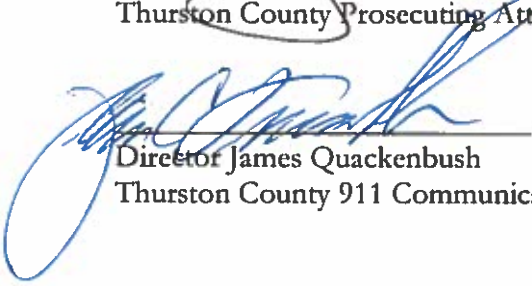
Chief Sean Gallagher
City of Tenino

Date 3/01/12



Prosecutor John Tunheim
Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Date 4/10/2012



Director James Quackenbush
Thurston County 911 Communications

Date: 4/11/12