

## **Washington:**

### TITLE 13. JUVENILE COURTS AND JUVENILE OFFENDERS CHAPTER 13.60. MISSING CHILDREN CLEARINGHOUSE

#### § 13.60.010. Missing children clearinghouse -- Hot line -- Distribution of information

The Washington state patrol shall establish a missing children clearinghouse which shall include the maintenance and operation of a toll-free, twenty-four-hour telephone hotline. The clearinghouse shall distribute information to local law enforcement agencies, school districts, the department of social and health services, and the general public regarding missing children. The information shall include pictures, bulletins, training sessions, reports, and biographical materials that will assist in local law enforcement efforts to locate missing children. The state patrol shall also maintain a regularly updated computerized link with national and other statewide missing person systems or clearinghouses.

"Child" or "children," as used in this chapter, means an individual under eighteen years of age.

#### § 13.60.020. Entry of information on missing children into missing person computer network -- Access

Local law enforcement agencies shall file an official missing person report and enter biographical information into the state missing person computerized network within twelve hours after notification of a missing child is received under \*RCW 13.32A.050 (1), (3), or (4). The patrol shall collect such information as will enable it to retrieve immediately the following information about a missing child: Name, date of birth, social security number, fingerprint classification, relevant physical descriptions, and known associates and locations. Access to the preceding information shall be available to appropriate law enforcement agencies, and to parents and legal guardians, when appropriate.

#### § 13.60.030. Information and education regarding missing children -- Plan

The superintendent of public instruction shall meet semiannually with the Washington state patrol to develop a coordinated plan for the distribution of information and education of teachers and students in the school districts of the state regarding the missing children problem in the state. The superintendent of public instruction shall encourage local school districts to cooperate by providing the state patrol information on any missing children that may be identified within the district.

§ 13.60.040. Children receiving services from department of social and health services --  
Reporting by the department -- Notification of child's whereabouts

The department of social and health services shall develop a procedure for reporting missing children information to the missing children clearinghouse on children who are receiving departmental services in each of its administrative regions. The purpose of this procedure is to link parents to missing children. When the department has obtained information that a minor child has been located at a facility funded by the department, the department shall notify the clearinghouse and the child's legal custodian, advising the custodian of the child's whereabouts or that the child is subject to a dependency action. The department shall inform the clearinghouse when reunification occurs.

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CHAPTER 13.60. **MISSING CHILDREN CLEARINGHOUSE**

Rev. Code Wash. (ARCW) § 13.60.100 (2005)

§ 13.60.100. Task force on **missing** and exploited **children** -- Findings, intent

The legislature finds a compelling need to address the problem of **missing children, whether those children** have been abducted by a stranger, are **missing** due to custodial interference, or are classified as runaways. Washington state ranks twelfth in the nation for active cases of **missing** juveniles and, at any given time, more than one thousand eight hundred Washington **children** are reported as **missing**. The potential for physical and psychological trauma to these **children** is extreme. Therefore, the legislature finds that it is paramount for the safety of these **children** that there be a concerted effort to resolve cases of **missing** and exploited **children**.

Due to the complexity of many **child** abduction cases, most law enforcement **personnel** are unprepared and lack adequate resources to successfully and efficiently investigate these crimes. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature that a multiagency task force be established within the Washington state patrol, to be available to assist local jurisdictions in **missing child** cases through referrals, on-site assistance, case management, and training. The legislature intends that the task force will increase the effectiveness of a specific case investigation by drawing from the combined resources, knowledge, and technical expertise of the members of the task force.

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§ 13.60.110. Task force on missing and exploited children -- Establishment -- Activities -- Annual reports

(1) A task force on missing and exploited children is established in the Washington state patrol. The task force shall be under the direction of the chief of the state patrol.

(2) The task force is authorized to assist law enforcement agencies, upon request, in cases involving missing or exploited children by:

(a) Direct assistance and case management;

(b) Technical assistance;

(c) Personnel training;

(d) Referral for assistance from local, state, national, and international agencies; and

(e) Coordination and information sharing among local, state, interstate, and federal law enforcement and social service agencies.

(3) To maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of state resources and to improve interagency cooperation, the task force shall, where feasible, use existing facilities, systems, and staff made available by the state patrol and other local, state, interstate, and federal law enforcement and social service agencies. The chief of the state patrol may employ such additional personnel as are necessary for the work of the task force and may share personnel costs with other agencies.

(4) The chief of the state patrol shall seek public and private grants and gifts to support the work of the task force.

(5) By December 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the chief of the state patrol shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature. The report shall establish performance measurements and objectives for the task force and assess the accomplishments of the task force.

(6) For the purposes of RCW 13.60.100 through 13.60.120, "exploited children" means children under the age of eighteen who are employed, used, persuaded, induced, enticed, or coerced to

engage in, or assist another person to engage in, sexually explicit conduct. "Exploited children" also means the rape, molestation, or use for prostitution of children under the age of eighteen.

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