

Other Points to Consider:

- ❖ The actions of parents and of law enforcement in the first 48 hours are critical to the safe recovery of a missing child, but the rawness of emotion can seriously hinder the ability of parents to make rational decisions at this crucial time.
- ❖ Your initial role in the search is to provide information to and answer questions from investigators and to be at home in the event your child calls or returns.
- ❖ Most of the initial searching of the area where the child is believed to have been last will be coordinated by law enforcement - either federal, state or local, depending on the circumstances of the disappearance.
- ❖ An important aspect of law enforcement's job is to preserve and protect any evidence gathered during the search.
- ❖ Keep the name and telephone number of your law enforcement coordinator in a safe, convenient place and program it in your cell phone. Keep the lines of communication open between you and your search coordinator by asking questions, making suggestions, and airing difference of opinion.
- ❖ The volunteer staging area should be located away from your home to protect your family from the accompanying traffic and chaos.
- ❖ Not all parents can or will want to be actively involved in the long-term search for a child. If you want to stay involved, develop a plan and set up a timetable with goals for continuing the search for your child, and set up a schedule of regular visits with your investigator to review the status of your child's case.
- ❖ Reread your notebook or journal periodically in case you find a passage that triggers a new idea or reminds you of something you had previously forgotten.
- ❖ Be extremely cautious before you allow a psychic to become involved in your child's case. Give all psychic leads to law enforcement for thorough investigation.