

Best Ways to Find a Missing Person

Finding a missing person can be strenuous and difficult. When a person goes missing, normally those concerned are not able to function properly or process information quickly enough to start a missing-person search. By following a few guidelines immediately upon finding out that someone has gone missing, you can save precious time and help return the missing person home safely.

Call a Meeting

First, call a meeting of family and friends, and retrace the steps of the person who is missing. Find out who the person last spoke with, where the missing person was last seen or expected to be, and any issues or strange behavior that has been observed about the missing person. If it is not possible to meet physically, have a meeting by phone. This type of meeting usually supplies tips about where the person was headed, or what danger the missing person may be in. Find out whether the person is involved in substance abuse, gambling issues, financial problems, mental instability, or an abusive relationship.

Search for Clues

Search the missing person's room thoroughly for clues regarding his potential whereabouts. Check computer for files, emails, or Internet history, which may supply details as to where the person may be headed or where he was last seen. Check his bedroom for any clues, such as a private journal or receipts for recent purchases, possibly journey tickets or hotel reservations. You may also be able to find information regarding other people the missing person may be involved with, such as a debtor or abusive friend. Look for the person's wallet or purse, and try to take an inventory to find out if any clothing or personal products are gone. Typically if a person leaves willingly, he packs a bag, and takes a purse or wallet.

Contact Local Facilities

When a person goes missing, one of the best things to do is to contact local facilities such as police stations, hospitals, prisons, drug rehabilitation facilities, airports, bus stations, train stations and hotels. Inform them that

there is a missing person in the area and they will be able to look through their databases for any name matches, as well as keep vigil for the missing person. If the missing person shows up, they will be able to contact you, or the authorities, regarding the situation.

Involve Law Enforcement

Law enforcement agencies are the main bodies that can best assist you with finding a missing person. Give the police a physical description of the missing person, any recent photos you may have, birth date, names of employer and friends and any other information that can assist with a police investigation.

If the missing person is under the age of 18, ask your police department to issue an Alert as soon as the child goes missing.

Use the Internet

Many people are connected socially to the Internet, in one form or another. Social-networking sites such as Facebook and Orkut have millions of registered users. Use the "Search" option, and type in the missing person's name. If the user has an account, his/her name and profile will come up.

Another way to find missing people using the Internet is by use of search engines such as Google. Google.com allows you to type in a person's name, and Google will scour the entire Internet to find websites that contain matches to what you're searching for. Many times you can find contact information; online profiles, friends, and other information that may help find a person's whereabouts.

Post Newspaper Ads

Putting a missing-person ad in the newspaper is fairly inexpensive and can get the photo of the missing person out into the community. With the photo, include age, description, clothing last worn, last seen location, and possible whereabouts to assist readers in helping to find the missing person.

Hire a Private Investigator

Hiring a private investigator may be the most expensive option, but a private investigator may have more search resources and expertise than the normal individual. He knows where to look and how to conduct an investigation. While costly, a private investigator may be able to track down vital information about a missing person's whereabouts much faster.