

THE FLORIDA AMBER PLAN Policy

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), in conjunction with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the Department of Lottery (DOL), and the Florida Association of Broadcasters, Inc (FAB), has established the FLORIDA AMBER PLAN.

The purpose of the Florida Amber Plan is to broadcast critical information of a missing/abducted child believed to be endangered, in a timely manner, to the general public via radio, television, DOT's highway Dynamic Message Signs and other highway advisory methods and/or DOL's lottery machines. In the event the child/abductor is seen or if anyone has knowledge of the abduction, that information can be provided immediately to the investigating law enforcement agency.

The Florida Amber Plan can assist in dramatically increasing the chances of the child's safe return.

CRITERIA

To activate the alert the following five (5) criteria must be met:

1. The child must be under 18 years of age.
2. There must be a clear indication of an abduction.
3. The law enforcement agency's investigation must conclude that the child's life is in danger.
4. There must be a detailed description of child and/or abductor/vehicle to broadcast to the public (photo when available).
5. The activation must be recommended by the local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction.

NOTE: To activate DOT's dynamic message signs and DOL's LED lottery machine, enough vehicle descriptive information along with complete or partial tag number to benefit a broadcast on the signs must be available.

ACTIVATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. The local law enforcement agency will call the FDLE Missing Children Information Clearinghouse (MCIC) at 1-888-356-4774. The Florida Investigative Support Center (FISC), responds to all after hours MCIC requests.
 - A. An on-call Special Agent Supervisor will work in conjunction with local law enforcement agency to ascertain whether case meets criteria and to offer additional help.
 - B. On-call MCIC analysts will work in conjunction with the FDLE FISC Analyst if request comes in after hours.

2. The FDLE will work in conjunction with the local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction to determine if information is to be broadcast via radio, television, displayed on DOT's message signs and/or DOL's LED and 07 messages on lottery machines on a regional or statewide basis.
3. The FDLE will work in conjunction with the local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction to prepare information (i.e., child, suspect, and/or vehicle, contact information) for public distribution using approved format(s) for broadcasters, DOT and DOL.
4. The FDLE will record the Amber Alert information on the EAS equipment located in the MCIC area. The Emergency Operations Center will be contacted at 850-413-9900 prior to transmitting the information to verify that information is broadcast.
5. If FDLE determines if the DOT DMSs are to be used, FDLE will contact the Florida Highway Patrol Communications Center Shift Commander in Orlando at 407-737-2200 in order to alert duty officers and other call takers of the Amber Alert. The FDLE will then fax all available information concerning the missing/abducted child to the FHP Communications Center in Orlando at 407-737-2217. FHP Shift Commander in Orlando is then responsible for relaying all information via telephone and fax to the appropriate to the Shift Commander(s) at appropriate FHP Communications Center(s) in the region(s) where the activation is occurring.
6. If FDLE determines if the DOT DMSs and 511 System are to be used, FDLE will then contact DOT's Orlando Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) by calling 407-736-1900 to develop the content of the message to be utilized. FDLE will fax the actual DMS Message to the Orlando RTMC to 407-736-1918, using the attached format.
7. The Orlando RTMC staff will relay the request to appropriate RTMC staff in the State to activate the Florida Amber Plan. The DOT will display the message until the child is recovered or for a maximum of 6 hours. DOT will display the alert message on all requested DMSs unless a traffic emergency occurs that requires an individual or group of DMSs to display a motorist safety message. DOT will record a brief AMBER Alert message on the 511 System. The 511 System is used only when the DMNs are displayed.
8. FDLE will follow the same activation steps listed above if an additional activation is required containing revised vehicle information and/or broadcast area.
9. Once FDLE is contacted that the child has been recovered, the FDLE will immediately contact the Shift Commander at FHP and DOT at 407-737-2200, to cancel the alert. The FHP Shift Commander in Orlando is responsible for relaying cancellation information to Shift Commander(s) at FHP Communications Centers that were previously notified.
10. If FDLE determines that the DOL's lottery machines are to be used, FDLE will contact DOL Security at 850-487-7752. Information, using the attached format, will then be emailed to DOL at amberalert@dol.state.fl.us (fax: 850-410-6966). The 07 message will carry information up to a maximum of 18 lines, 32 characters per line, including spaces.

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The LED message will only be used for vehicle information if a vehicle is involved, up to a maximum of 128 characters, including spaces.

11. The DOL staff (available 24-hours) will ensure that the LED and/or 07 messages are input into the lottery machines. The LED message will scroll across the lottery machine and the 07 message will be printed from retailer's lottery machines and placed into an Amber Alert poster that DOL provides to retailers.
12. DOL is responsible to communicating to retailers when an alert is to be activated.
13. FDLE will follow the same activation steps listed for DOL if additional updated information is provided.
14. Once FDLE is contacted by local law enforcement that a child has been recovered/located, the FDLE will immediately contact the DOL at 850-487-7752, to cancel the alert and follow up with an email to amberalert@dol.state.fl.us.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

Each activation will be brought before a special committee of state agency partners, law enforcement representatives, and broadcasters to ensure that the program's goals are being met, and that each activation meets the criteria and is conducted in a timely manner.

OTHER RESOURCES

- Local media outlets
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
(1-800-THE-LOST) Florida Branch 1-561-848-1900
- Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abductions
1-800-JIM-RYCE (546-7923)
- A Child is Missing, Inc.
1-888-875-2246
- FBI National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (formerly CASKU)
1-800-634-4097
- Local Crime Stoppers

For more information about the Florida Amber Plan
Please contact the FDLE/MCIC at
1-888-356-4774
www.fdle.state.fl.us/amberplan

