



GENERAL POLICE ORDER CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE



ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: May 5, 2008	REVISED DATE: June 3, 2014	NO. PAGES: 1 of 3	NUMBER: 4.1.14
SUBJECT: COMBINED ABDUCTION RESPONSE TEAM (CART)			
ASSOCIATED MANUAL:		RELATED ORDERS: 6.2.10, 6.2.17, 9.1.07, 9.1.08	
CHIEF OF POLICE: <i>Calvin D. Williams, Chief</i>			

Substantive changes are italicized

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for use of the Combined Abduction Response Team (CART).

POLICY: The Cleveland Division of Police shall activate the CART when there is credible information to believe that a person has been abducted. This activation is not a substitute for an Amber Alert. The use of CART is an investigative response when an immediate response is crucial in the early hours of a suspected abduction.

Statistics and current investigative information strongly suggests that the first three hours are the most critical in terms of developing leads and processing the potential abduction sites. Therefore CART will begin the investigative processing as soon as possible.

DEFINITIONS:

CART Coordinator - the Deputy Chief of *Homeland* Special Operations.

Incident Commander - the commander of the district of incident occurrence.

PROCEDURES:

I. Call-up Criteria

- A. The Incident Commander in consultation with the CART Coordinator will make the determination if there is enough credible information to warrant a CART response. The Incident Commander in consultation with the CART Coordinator will also determine the scope of the CART call-up.

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- B. A CART call-up shall be initiated when credible information determines that a person is involuntarily missing. Criteria to consider prior to initiating a CART call-up include:
1. A missing person who is a juvenile who is outside the “zone of safety” for the juvenile’s age, developmental stage and/or physical condition. The “zone of safety” varies for each child. In the case of an infant, the “zone of safety” is limited to the immediate presence of an adult custodian or a safe area that an infant is placed. For an elementary school age child, the “zone of safety” may be the immediate neighborhood or the route between home and school and other activities.
 2. A missing person who may be more susceptible to exploitation due to the person’s mental capacity, developmental disability or emotional disturbance. This type of person may have greater difficulty in communicating with others about needs, identity, or address.
 3. A missing person who is medication dependent.
 4. A missing person where there are indications of a potentially life threatening situation or of other foul play or sexual abuse.
 5. Any other circumstances that will cause a reasonable person to conclude that the missing person may be considered at-risk.
- C. The scope of a CART call-up shall take into account the available resources as determined by the Incident Commander in consultation with the CART Coordinator and secondarily the divisional needs to deliver timely police services to the service population.

II. Call-up Procedures

- A. The Communications Control Section (CCS) shall code the missing person assignment as a priority one and dispatch a two-officer car or two one-officer cars to the scene.
- B. CCS shall contact and dispatch a sector supervisor to the scene.

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- C. The sector supervisor shall respond to the scene and confer with the zone car personnel to determine the level of threat or danger and notify and brief the district commander on the situation.
 - D. When appropriate, an Amber Alert shall be issued. A CART call-up can be activated in addition to an Amber Alert. Refer to General Police Order 9.1.07 for Amber Alert procedures.
 - E. After the Incident Commander has verified the necessary criteria and authorized the CART call-up in consultation with CART Coordinator, the Incident Commander shall contact CCS to request the CART call-up.
 - F. The team shall consist of the Incident Commander, the CART Coordinator and at least one member from the district of occurrence detective unit. The Commander of the Bureau of Special Services shall ensure that the appropriate Division of Police liaisons to outside agencies are made part of CART as warranted.
- III. As appropriate, Incident Commanders shall utilize the “Simple Leads Management System” developed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to track and manage leads and investigative resources. This computer resource is networked so that all involved investigative assets can access, update and review case information in real time.
- IV. The CART Coordinator shall provide CCS with a monthly call-up list of CART contacts and contact information.
- V. Refer to General Police Order 6.2.10 “Missing Person Investigations” for reporting procedures and follow-up responsibilities.