

Endangered Missing Person Advisory Act

P.A. 96-0149

On January 1, 2010, Public Act 96-0149 went into effect creating the Endangered Missing Person Advisory (EMPA) within the [Illinois State Police](#). The new law directs the Illinois State Police and the Illinois Department on Aging to implement a community outreach program to promote awareness among the State's healthcare facilities, and other senior centers. Specifically, the State Police would like to work with professionals in the Aging field on a preventive effort to further educate caregivers and others about the warning signs of Alzheimer's or other conditions that might put an older adult at risk of endangerment.

The purpose of the Endangered Missing Person Advisory is to rapidly disseminate information to local law enforcement, broadcasters and the public when an individual believed to be at high risk is missing and they meet the following criteria:

- The person is missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances;
- The person is believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment, weather conditions, or in the company of a potentially dangerous person or some other factor that may expose the person to possible harm or injury;
- Public information is available that could assist in the safe recovery of the person;
- The circumstances do not fit the criteria of an AMBER Alert (which is only to be used when a child is abducted and thought to be in immediate danger of serious bodily harm or death).

To report someone missing, individuals should immediately contact their local law enforcement agency by dialing 9-1-1.

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FACT SHEET

What is the Illinois Endangered Missing Person Advisory (EMPA)?

The Endangered Missing Person Advisory, enacted on 01/01/2010, is an innovative system to immediately notify law enforcement and the public about missing person cases not meeting the criteria for an AMBER Alert. AMBER Alerts have saved the lives of hundreds of children; however, it does not address cases where police have no evidence of child abduction, adult kidnap victims, or missing Alzheimer's patients.

Like the AMBER Alert, the Endangered Missing Person Advisory (EMPA) is a formal action plan that brings together law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, and others in a voluntary partnership to enlist the aid of the public in finding a missing person regardless of age.

How is an Endangered Missing Person Advisory started?

A missing person should be reported to their local law enforcement agency. During investigation of the missing person case, local law enforcement will determine if the missing person is endangered and might be aided by an Endangered Missing Person Advisory.

The EMPA establishes a regional system that enhances the ability of local police agencies to rapidly transmit information regarding, for example, an older adult who is afflicted with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia and places a high priority in reporting, investigation and public notification.

What happens after an advisory is activated?

After local law enforcement verify the criteria, they will complete the "Endangered Missing Person Advisory" and fax to the Illinois State Police Springfield Communication Center (SCC) for distribution to the media and other approved public outlets wishing to receive notification.

What is an example of the criteria for an endangered missing person?

- The circumstances do not fit the criteria of an AMBER Alert;
- The person is missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances;
- The person is believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, environment, weather conditions, or in the company of a potentially dangerous person or some other factor that may expose the person to possible harm or injury;
- Public information is available that could assist in the safe recovery of the person.

What should I do when a senior citizen is missing?

Don't wait! You should immediately contact your local law enforcement by dialing 9-1-1. Discuss with law enforcement the possibility of issuing an Endangered Missing Person Advisory. If it is determined that the criteria is met, the local law enforcement will initiate the EMPA.

What if a senior citizen wanders away from a Nursing Facility?

The Nursing Facility should follow the same process as if a senior citizen goes missing from their own home. Dial 9-1-1 immediately and inform your local law enforcement.