

EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE  
REGULAR BASIC COURSE  
LEARNING DOMAIN 27  
MISSING PERSONS

**Effective date of outline: August 1, 2013**

**I. LEARNING NEED**

Peace officers need to understand their legal and professional obligations as well as the need for sensitivity and effective communication when responding to a missing person's investigation.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- A. State the statutory definition of:
  - 1. Missing person
  - 2. Child
  
- B. Discuss missing person statutes as specified in:
  - 1. California Penal Code
  - 2. California Welfare and Institutions Code

**II. LEARNING NEED**

Peace officers need to know how to obtain sufficient and accurate preliminary information from the reporting party.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- A. Explain the statutory requirements for accepting a missing person report
  - 1. Penal Code Section 14025 (a) states: accepted without delay and regardless of jurisdiction
  - 2. Reports accepted regardless if made by phone, writing, or in person
  - 3. No requirement for set amount of time (i.e., 24 hours)
  
- B. Describe information that should be obtained, and steps taken by the initial responder to a report of a missing person, including:
  - 1. Verification that the report is for a missing person
  - 2. Classification of missing person case
  - 3. Determining at risk status
  - 4. Obtaining missing person description, recent photograph and release waiver
  - 5. Efforts to locate missing person
  - 6. Notification of a supervisor or investigator
  - 7. Other agency notifications
  - 8. Completion of the report
  - 9. BOLO broadcasts
  - 10. Entries to missing person information databases (e.g., MUPS)
  - 11. Amber Alert

- C. Describe the conditions that influence the level of law enforcement response to a report of a missing person.
1. Age
  2. Family and social environment
  3. Missing person's knowledge of the area
  4. Suspicious circumstances
  5. Mental, emotional, medical or physical condition
  6. Weather/time of day
  7. Resources available to missing person
  8. Length of time person has been missing
  9. Parental custody status

### III. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must know that a thorough preliminary investigation improves the chances of a missing person being located quickly and safely.

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Discuss areas that should be included in an initial search for a missing person
1. Identification
  2. Description and identifying characteristics
  3. Nature of circumstances
  4. Other associated information
  5. Physical description
  6. Condition of the missing person
  7. Circumstances of the disappearance
  8. Possible contacts
  9. Additional background information
- B. Describe how search considerations for a child might vary from those of an adult
1. Adults have the ability to travel farther distance and may leave a note or notify someone that they have left.
  2. Children may plan to leave but usually stay within their "safety zone" Children generally don't leave safety zone by choice.
- C. Explain a peace officer's primary responsibilities when responding to an abduction of a child by a parent/family member
1. To protect the safety and well being of the child.
  2. Up hold the law if a criminal act has taken place.
- D. Describe circumstances related to custody dispute situations when an officer may take a child into protective custody.
1. When officer reasonably believes that one of the involved parties is likely to
  2. Conceal the child
  3. Flee the jurisdiction with the child or by flight of concealment evade authority
  4. No lawful custodian to take custody of child

5. There are conflicting custody orders or conflicting claims to custody and parties cannot agree which party should take custody of the child
  6. The child is a victim of abduction
- E. Discuss penal code notification requirements when peace officers locate a missing person.
1. Penal Code Section 14207 identifies a number of actions that shall be taken when a person previously reported missing is located, alive or dead.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Hours</u>
POST Minimum Required Hours	<u>4</u>
Agency Specific Hours	<u>          </u>
Total Instructional Hours	<u>4</u>