

# National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

**The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)** is a private, nonprofit organization established in 1984 by the United States Congress. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children was founded in 1984, spurred by notable child abductions such as the 1981 abduction and murder of six-year-old [Adam Walsh](#) from a shopping mall in [Hollywood, Florida](#) and the 1979 abduction of six-year-old [Etan Patz](#) from New York City. Because police had the ability to record and track information about stolen cars, stolen guns, and even stolen horses with the FBI's national crime computer, it was believed that the same should be done to find child victims and the procurers who exploited them.

In 1984, the U.S. Congress passed the [Missing Children's Assistance Act](#), which established a National Resource Center and Clearinghouse on Missing & Exploited Children. On June 13, 1984, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, formed by Adam Walsh's parents, Revé and [John Walsh](#), alongside other children's advocates, was officially opened by [President Ronald Reagan](#) in a [White House](#) ceremony. The national 24-hour toll-free missing children's hotline, 1-800-THE-LOST, was also established.

The Center provides information to help locate children reported missing (by parental abduction, [child abduction](#), or running away from home) and to assist physically and sexually abused children. In this resource capacity, the NCMEC distributes photographs of missing children and accepts tips and information from the public. It also coordinates these activities with numerous state and federal law enforcement agencies.

The Center not only specializes in locating missing children, but identifying the deceased. There are a number of [unidentified decedents](#) in the country, some of which are children, teenagers and young adults. Like missing children, posters are created for the cases and, is possible, show [forensic facial reconstructions](#) of the subject that show an estimation of their appearance while alive. The reconstructions that the NCMEC creates have been regarded to be state-of-the-art and have been stated to have been mistaken for photographs.

## Have You Seen a Missing Child?

If you believe you have seen a missing child, please search for their poster using our search tool, and click the "report a sighting" icon in the top right corner of the poster, or call us at **1-800-THE-LOST(1-800-843-5678)**.



<b>Formation</b>	June 13, 1984
<b>Location</b>	United States
<b>CEO</b>	<a href="#">John F. Clark</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.missingkids.org">www.missingkids.org</a> ( <a href="http://www.missingkids.org">http://www.missingkids.org</a> )