

## **SUZANNE'S LAW**

### **REPORTING YOUR MISSING CHILD**

The Lincoln Memorial University is dedicated to providing a safe environment for all of our faculty, staff, students, and visitors. In case of a missing child the LMU Police will work closely with local, state, and federal agencies and making every attempt to return your child safely. In an effort to provide a comprehensive investigation into the possible disappearance of your child we need your full cooperation.

In 2003 former President George W. Bush signed into law "Suzanne's Law," requiring police to notify the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) when someone between 18 and 21 is reported missing, as part of the national "Amber Alert" bill. Previously police were only required to report missing persons under the age of 18. Any person under the age of 21 is considered a missing child.

Also, the police are now able to enter long term missing persons up to the age of 21 who were reported missing before the law went into effect.

In addition to filing the information with NCIC the law enforcement agency is able to file a report with National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and receive services such as poster creation and age enhancement technology.

This federal law is named for Suzanne Lyall, a State University of New York at Albany student who has been missing since 1998.

**Do not wait 48 hours to report your child missing.** There is no time limit that you must wait to report a person as missing, whether he/she is considered missing or a runaway.

The first 48 hours following a missing or runaway episode are the most important in locating your child. While many children return home or are located during this period, it is critical to take every action available to help locate and safeguard your children. **DO NOT WAIT** to report your child missing. There is no time limit that you must wait to report a person as missing. We know that finding your loved one is your greatest priority. We are here to help.

To aid us in returning your child to you safely, we will need to confirm the child's identity. If your child has dental and medical records, please follow the steps below.

Ask your child's dentist and pediatrician/doctor to complete the appropriate sections in the NCIC Missing Person File Data Collection Entry Guide, a 36-page booklet that can be completed online, or it can be provided to you by our investigator.

Bring the completed form to the Lincoln Memorial University Police Department, Criminal Investigator, located at the Tex Turner Arena (423) 869-6532.

The investigator will provide you with the Missing Person File that is required to assist with locating your missing child.