



# Tulsa Police Department

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**Policy #** 122B

**Effective Date** 04/17/2020

**Policy Name** Amber Plan

**Approved Date** 04/17/2020

**Approved by** *Wendell Franklin, Chief of Police*

**Previous Date** 11/30/2016

## PURPOSE OF CHANGE:

Update the Exploitation Unit is now Sex & Violent Offender Registration Unit (SVOR).

## POLICY:

The Tulsa Police Department responds to various types of missing persons situations. Circumstances may include kidnappings, runaways, or people with diminished mental capacity who have wandered away from caregivers. Because there are various programs that aid us in locating missing persons who fall into these categories, there are different procedures to be followed.

The Amber Plan is an early warning system to alert the public when a child is abducted, and the police believe the child is in danger. The hope is that widespread and early public notice will coerce an abductor into releasing a child, for fear of being caught. While the Amber Plan has been specifically designed for children under the age of 17, in rare instances where the victim is over the age of 17, but lacks the mental capacity of an adult, the Amber Plan could be authorized for activation. Officers assigned to investigate an abduction should refer to the Investigative Checklist as a guideline for their investigation.

**SUMMARY:** Procedures to be followed for child abduction.

**APPLIES TO:** All police personnel

## DEFINITIONS:

**AMBER PLAN** – a system to alert the public when a child is abducted, and the police believe the child is in danger.

**AMBER ALERT CENTER (AAC)** – located in Room 101, of the police courts building, utilized during an Amber Plan, that contains a phone bank for receiving numerous calls from the community.

## PROCEDURES:

### A. AMBER PLAN

1. The Amber Plan is activated when a child who meets the criteria listed below, is abducted.

a. Is the abduction one in which the child is 17 years of age or younger?

- 1) If yes, answer section 1d.
- 2) If no, answer section 1b.

b. Is the abduction one in which the child victim has a proven mental or physical disability?

- 1) If yes, answer section 1d.

2) If no, answer section 1c.

c. Did the child abduction involve acts of violence?

- 1) If yes, the situation **QUALIFIES FOR AMBER PLAN ACTIVATION.**
- 2) If no, answer section 1d.

d. Do you believe the child to be in danger of serious bodily harm or death?

- 1) If yes, the situation **QUALIFIES FOR AMBER PLAN ACTIVATION.**
- 2) If not, do not activate the Amber Plan.

2. Activation of the Amber Plan is normally not for runaways, child custody disputes, child stealing, or missing children. It should normally only be used in cases of child abduction committed by a stranger, however if the child that is missing meets the required criteria, activate the plan.

3. If the abduction is a non-custodial parent and circumstances, both past and present, would put the child in great danger, activating the Amber Plan may be appropriate. In these cases, contact the SVOR Unit Lieutenant or People Crimes Captain of the Detective Division.

4. If the above criteria are met, contact a Shift Commander, or supervisor. They will review the search efforts to date and will determine if the abduction meets the Amber Alert protocol.

5. If it is determined that an abduction occurred, but the protocol is not met:

- a. Notify the SVOR Supervisor and the SVOR Duty Pager via dispatch.
- b. Review field search efforts.
- c. Notify the Communications Unit (CU) who will contact local news media outlets.

6. If the protocol is met, the Shift Commander, or supervisor, will:

- a. Notify on-duty Detectives to activate the Amber Alert Center (AAC) (see procedure A. 8).
- b. Assign at least four officers to staff the AAC.
- c. Notify dispatch that they are activating an Amber Alert and request that the following personnel be notified:

- 1) SVOR Unit Lieutenant.
- 2) IMT Team Commander
- 3) SVOR Unit Personnel.

- 4) Sex Crimes Personnel.
- 5) Child Crisis Personnel.
- 6) The Detective Captain over People Crimes.
- 7) Communications Unit.
- 8) A Child Is Missing.
- 9) FBI.
- 10) Warrants Unit Personnel.

- d. Evaluate the need for roadblocks or checkpoints.
- e. Set up a field command center.
- f. Coordinate with the Detective Captain on AAC command developments.
- g. Continually evaluate field search operations.
- h. Consider the activation of IMT members for assistance with the Command Post and search activities.
- i. Contact Teletype (TTY), who will notify the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (OLETS).

- 1) Provide them with all known victim and suspect information for a statewide broadcast to the Department of Public Safety (DPS).
- 2) Ensure that the Amber Alert contains a description of the child and the details of the abduction.

7. The Shift Commander will establish a Command Post near the search location to continually evaluate the search efforts, coordinate the field command post operations, establish liaison with the AAC, and commit more resources as needed.

8. The person who is assigned to activate the AAC is to proceed to the Detective Division. The Amber Plan Activation Briefcase is located in the Bullpen on the top of the mail shelf. It contains an AAC door lock code/key card, phone bank activation instructions, and additional information and supplies needed to activate the AAC. There must be at least four (4) individuals in place to answer the phones prior to the phone bank activation.

## **REGULATIONS:**

1. Outside requests to assist with Amber Alerts will be referred to the SVOR Unit Lieutenant or the People Crimes Captain.

## **REFERENCES:**

140, *Incident Command System*