

This page has been automatically translated. Please refer to the page in French if needed.

## Disappearance of a minor child

Verified 08 March 2023 - Directorate for Legal and Administrative Information (Prime Minister)

Do you see your minor child disappearing? You're thinking about a fugue, or even a kidnapping, and you want to know how to act? We'll give you the information you need.  
You must first look for it with your loved ones. However, if you find the disappearance worrying, you must alert the competent services.

### What to do immediately if your child is missing?

If your child is missing and you cannot contact him or her, you must first search for him or her **friends**, of your **neighbors**, **members of your family**.

You should also search for it in the **places he is used to frequenting** (park, playground,...).

You can contact his **school** or the **place which has custody of it** (examples: aerated center, sports club).

It is advisable to inquire about the time at which your child left alone.

Similarly, in case of fugue, it is recommended to check if your child has left with any belongings (ID, money, clothes, bags, mobile phone,...).

### What is a disturbing disappearance?

There is no clear definition of a disturbing disappearance.

However, the worrying nature of the disappearance can be traced to the following:

- Departure without personal belongings
- Vulnerability of the person due to age, illness, placement under guardianship (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2120?lang=en>) or trusteeship (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2094?lang=en>) or disability
- Discovery of suicidal mail or threats
- Suspected radicalization

### Who to contact to report a worrying disappearance?

In case of **worrying disappearance**, including runaways, you should contact police or gendarmerie services near your home.

These services will implement research activities.

To contact the police or gendarmerie, you can call the **17**.

The unexplained disappearance of a minor is a **emergency situation**.

You can also go directly to a police station or gendarmerie. Their premises are open to the public 24 hours a day. A recent photograph of the child will be requested.

### What happens if a child is abducted?

**Only in the case of removal**, the public prosecutor may decide to trigger the device Removal alert (<http://www.alerte-enlevement.gouv.fr>). This device alerts the media and disseminates the report of the abducted child. However, the triggering of this alert is not systematic.

## Warning

In case of parental abduction (if the other parent leaves with the child) or non-presentation of child, you must follow a other approach (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1191?lang=en>) .

## How do I get help and support when a child goes missing? ^

Telephone service **116,000 Missing Children** is a unique European issue dedicated to missing children.

### Who shall I contact

#### Missing Children - 116,000 ^

Telephone reception and information service for families of missing or abducted children

##### By telephone

**116,000** (free)

Accessible 7/7 and 24 hours a day.

European number operational from 28 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

##### By E-mail

Access to contact form (<http://www.116000enfantsdisparus.fr/nous-contacter.html>)

Its mission is to listen to and support the families of missing children. It advises families in administrative and legal proceedings.

He also intervenes with families in the context of runaways, parental kidnappings in France or abroad.

### Who can help me?

Find who can answer your questions in your region

#### Missing Children - 116,000

Telephone reception and information service for families of missing or abducted children

##### By telephone

**116,000** (free)

Accessible 7/7 and 24 hours a day.

European number operational from 28 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

##### By E-mail

Access to contact form (<http://www.116000enfantsdisparus.fr/nous-contacter.html>)

## Additional topics ^

Parental conflict on the departure of a minor child (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1774?lang=en>)

Service Public

Parental abduction - Child non-representation (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F1191?lang=en>)

Service Public

Disappearance of an adult (<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F31558?lang=en>)

Service Public

Kidnapping Alert (<http://www.alerte-enlevement.gouv.fr?lang=en>)

Ministry of Justice