

AMERICA'S MISSING FOSTER CHILDREN

20,000 children go missing from the child protection system every year. Many of these children are never found by law enforcement, but they are found by sex traffickers and predators. The Missing Foster Children reforms work together to protect children with mandatory immediate reporting of missing children, new ID tools for law enforcement, education for foster kids about child predators, and strong criminal penalties for adults who abuse children.

MODEL LAWS



PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

Free state photo identification cards for all children in foster care; photo ID cards for children in group homes are mandatory. Law enforcement reports that having a current photo is critical to finding children quickly.



MANDATORY REPORTING

Requires child protection agencies to report a missing foster child to law enforcement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) within two hours. Requires law enforcement to enter the child's information into state and national missing person databases within two hours.



CHILD PREDATOR EDUCATION

Requires the state to provide children in foster care with information about online predators and other forms of trafficking and predation.



STRONGER CRIMINAL PENALTIES

Foster parents and group home employees who exploit children will face stronger criminal penalties.



KEEP COURT CASES OPEN

A missing child's court case must stay open.

*"No one looks for us.
I really want to make this
clear. No one looks for us."*

- T. Ortiz Walker Pettigrew

Ms. Pettigrew went missing from foster care when she was 10 years old. Her kidnapper raped, beat and sold her for sex across the western United States. T escaped at 17 and is now a child and human rights advocate.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 20,000 children go missing from the child protection system every year.
- America's child sex trafficking trade is fueled by missing foster children.
- Searches for missing children must be mandatory.