

## SUBCHAPTER IV—MISSING CHILDREN

## § 5771. Findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) each year thousands of children are abducted or removed from the control of a parent having legal custody without such parent's consent, under circumstances which immediately place the child in grave danger;

(2) many missing children are at great risk of both physical harm and sexual exploitation;

(3) many missing children are runaways;

(4) in many cases, parents and local law enforcement officials have neither the resources nor the expertise to mount expanded search efforts;

(5) abducted children are frequently moved from one locality to another, requiring the cooperation and coordination of local, State, and Federal law enforcement efforts;

(6) growing numbers of children are the victims of child sexual exploitation, increasingly involving the use of new technology to access the Internet;

(7) children may be separated from their parents or legal guardians as a result of national disasters such as hurricanes and floods;

(8) sex offenders pose a threat to children;

(9) the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention administers programs under this chapter through the Child Protection Division, including programs which prevent or address offenses committed against vulnerable children and which support missing children's organizations; and

(10) a key component of such programs is the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which—

(A) serves as a national resource center and clearinghouse;

(B) works in partnership with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Marshals Service, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of State, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Secret Service, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and many other agencies in the effort to find missing children and prevent child victimization; and

(C) operates a national network, linking the Center online with each of the missing children clearinghouses operated by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, as well as with international organizations, including Scotland Yard in the United Kingdom, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, INTERPOL headquarters in Lyon, France, and others, which enable the Center to transmit images and information regarding missing and exploited children to law enforcement across the United States and around the world instantly.

(Pub. L. 93-415, title IV, § 402, as added Pub. L. 98-473, title II, § 660, Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 2125; amended Pub. L. 106-71, § 2(a), Oct. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1032; Pub. L. 108-96, title II, § 201, Oct. 10, 2003, 117 Stat. 1171; Pub. L. 110-240, § 2, June 3, 2008, 122 Stat. 1560; Pub. L. 113-38, § 2(a), Sept. 30, 2013, 127 Stat. 527.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in par. (9), was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 93-415, Sept. 7, 1974, 88 Stat. 1109, known as the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5601 of this title and Tables.

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 402 of Pub. L. 93-415 amended section 3888 of this title and repealed section 3889 of this title, and was repealed by Pub. L. 95-115, § 10, Oct. 3, 1977, 91 Stat. 1061, and Pub. L. 107-273, div. C, title II, § 12221(a)(4), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1894.

## AMENDMENTS

2013—Pub. L. 113-38 added par. (3) and redesignated former pars. (3) to (9) as (4) to (10), respectively.

2008—Pub. L. 110-240 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section consisted of pars. (1) to (5) stating findings of Congress concerning missing or abducted children and the role of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

2003—Pub. L. 108-96 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section consisted of pars. (1) to (21) stating findings of Congress.

1999—Pars. (9) to (21). Pub. L. 106-71 added pars. (9) to (21).

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Subchapter effective Oct. 12, 1984, see section 670(a) of Pub. L. 98-473, set out as an Effective Date of 1984 Amendment note under section 5601 of this title.

## SHORT TITLE

For short title of title IV of Pub. L. 93-415, which enacted this subchapter, as the "Missing Children's Assistance Act", see section 401 of Pub. L. 93-415, as added by Pub. L. 98-473, set out as a note under section 5601 of this title.

## § 5772. Definitions

For the purpose of this subchapter—

(1) the term "missing child" means any individual less than 18 years of age whose whereabouts are unknown to such individual's legal custodian;

(2) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and

(3) the term "Center" means the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

(Pub. L. 93-415, title IV, § 403, as added Pub. L. 98-473, title II, § 660, Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 2126; amended Pub. L. 106-71, § 2(b), Oct. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1034; Pub. L. 109-248, title I, § 154(b), July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 611; Pub. L. 109-295, title VI, § 689b(c), Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1450.)

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 403 of Pub. L. 93-415 amended section 3883 of this title, and was repealed by Pub. L. 95-115, § 10, Oct. 3, 1977, 91 Stat. 1061, and Pub. L. 107-273, div. C, title II, § 12221(a)(4), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1894.

## AMENDMENTS

2006—Par. (1). Pub. L. 109-295, which directed amendment of par. (1) by striking out "or" at the end of subpar. (A), inserting "or" after the semicolon in subpar. (B), and adding after subpar. (B) subpar. (C) "the individual is an individual under 21 years of age who is displaced from the habitual residence of that individual as a result of an emergency or major disaster (as those terms are defined in section 5122 of this title).", could