

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

not be executed because of the prior amendment by Pub. L. 109-248, see below.

Pub. L. 109-248, which directed amendment of "Section 403(1) of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 5772)" by substituting a semicolon at end for "if—" through subpar. (B), was executed by substituting a semicolon for "if—" and subpars. (A) and (B) of par. (1) of this section, which is section 403 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-415, as added by section 660 of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. Prior to amendment, subpars. (A) and (B) read as follows:

"(A) the circumstances surrounding such individual's disappearance indicate that such individual may possibly have been removed by another from the control of such individual's legal custodian without such custodian's consent; or

"(B) the circumstances of the case strongly indicate that such individual is likely to be abused or sexually exploited;"

1999—Par. (3). Pub. L. 106-71 added par. (3).

§ 5773. Duties and functions of the Administrator

(a) Description of activities

The Administrator shall—

(1) issue such rules as the Administrator considers necessary or appropriate to carry out this subchapter;

(2) make such arrangements as may be necessary and appropriate to facilitate effective coordination among all federally funded programs relating to missing children (including the preparation of an annual comprehensive plan for facilitating such coordination);

(3) provide for the furnishing of information derived from the national toll-free telephone line, established under subsection (b)(1) of this section, to appropriate entities;

(4) coordinate with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to ensure that homeless services professionals are aware of educational resources and assistance provided by the Center regarding child sexual exploitation;

(5) provide adequate staff and agency resources which are necessary to properly carry out the responsibilities pursuant to this subchapter; and

(6) not later than 180 days after the end of each fiscal year, submit a report to the President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate—

(A) containing a comprehensive plan for facilitating cooperation and coordination in the succeeding fiscal year among all agencies and organizations with responsibilities related to missing children;

(B) identifying and summarizing effective models of Federal, State, and local coordination and cooperation in locating and recovering missing children;

(C) identifying and summarizing effective program models that provide treatment, counseling, or other aid to parents of missing children or to children who have been the victims of abduction;

(D) describing how the Administrator satisfied the requirements of paragraph (4) in the preceding fiscal year;

(E) describing in detail the number and types of telephone calls received in the preceding fiscal year over the national toll-free telephone line established under subsection (b)(1)(A) of this section and the number and types of communications referred to the national communications system established under section 5714-11 of this title;

(F) describing in detail the activities in the preceding fiscal year of the national resource center and clearinghouse established under subsection (b)(2) of this section;

(G) describing all the programs for which assistance was provided under section 5775 of this title in the preceding fiscal year;

(H) summarizing the results of all research completed in the preceding year for which assistance was provided at any time under this subchapter; and

(I)(i) identifying each clearinghouse with respect to which assistance is provided under section 5775(a)(9) of this title in the preceding fiscal year;

(ii) describing the activities carried out by such clearinghouse in such fiscal year;

(iii) specifying the types and amounts of assistance (other than assistance under section 5775(a)(9) of this title) received by such clearinghouse in such fiscal year; and

(iv) specifying the number and types of missing children cases handled (and the number of such cases resolved) by such clearinghouse in such fiscal year and summarizing the circumstances of each such cases.¹

(b) Annual grant to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

(1) In general

The Administrator shall annually make a grant to the Center, which shall be used to—

(A)(i) operate a national 24-hour toll-free telephone line by which individuals may report information regarding the location of any missing child, and request information pertaining to procedures necessary to reunite such child with such child's legal custodian; and

(ii) coordinate the operation of such telephone line with the operation of the national communications system referred to in part C of subchapter III;

(B) operate the official national resource center and information clearinghouse for missing and exploited children;

(C) provide to State and local governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, State and local educational agencies, and individuals, information regarding—

(i) free or low-cost legal, restaurant, lodging, and transportation services that are available for the benefit of missing and exploited children and their families; and

(ii) the existence and nature of programs being carried out by Federal agencies to assist missing and exploited children and their families;

(D) coordinate public and private programs that locate, recover, or reunite missing children with their families;

¹ So in original. Probably should be "case."