

communications network in the State or territory of an Indian Tribe in which the individual is identified as a missing individual;

(B) is identified by a law enforcement agency as a missing individual; and

(C) meets the requirements to be designated as a missing adult, as determined by the State in which, or the Indian Tribe in the territory of which, the individual is identified as a missing individual.

**(8) State**

The term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(Pub. L. 106-468, title II, §201, as added Pub. L. 115-401, §2(5), Dec. 31, 2018, 132 Stat. 5336.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The PROTECT Act, referred to in par. (1), is Pub. L. 108-21, Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 650, also known as the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003. Subtitle A of title III of the Act is classified generally to chapter 205 (§20501 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2003 Amendment note set out under section 1 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, and Tables.

**§ 21902. Ashanti Alert communications network**

**(a) In general**

The Attorney General shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, establish a national communications network within the Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice to provide assistance to regional and local search efforts for missing adults through the initiation, facilitation, and promotion of local elements of the network, in coordination with States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other concerned entities with expertise in providing services to adults.

**(b) Integration with existing communications network**

In establishing the Ashanti Alert communications network under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall coordinate, when advisable, with missing person alert systems in existence as of December 31, 2018, such as the AMBER Alert communications network and Silver Alert communications networks.

(Pub. L. 106-468, title II, §202, as added Pub. L. 115-401, §2(5), Dec. 31, 2018, 132 Stat. 5337.)

**§ 21903. Ashanti Alert Coordinator**

**(a) National coordinator within Department of Justice**

The Attorney General shall designate an employee of the Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice to act as the national coordinator of the Ashanti Alert communications network.

**(b) Duties of the Coordinator**

In acting as the national coordinator of the Ashanti Alert communications network, the Coordinator shall—

(1) work with States and Indian Tribes to encourage the development of additional Ashanti Alert plans in the network;

(2) establish voluntary guidelines for States and Indian Tribes to use in developing Ashanti Alert plans that will promote compatible and integrated Ashanti Alert plans throughout the United States, including—

(A) a list of the resources necessary to establish an Ashanti Alert plan;

(B) criteria for evaluating whether a situation warrants issuing an Ashanti Alert, taking into consideration the need for the use of Ashanti Alerts to be limited in scope because the effectiveness of the Ashanti Alert communications network may be affected by overuse, including criteria to determine—

(i) whether the mental capacity of an adult who is missing, and the circumstances of his or her disappearance, including any history of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, or human trafficking, warrant the issuance of an Ashanti Alert; and

(ii) whether the individual who reports that an adult is missing is an appropriate and credible source on which to base the issuance of an Ashanti Alert;

(C) a description of the appropriate uses of the Ashanti Alert name to readily identify the nature of search efforts for missing adults; and

(D) recommendations on how to protect the privacy, dignity, independence, autonomy, and safety of any missing adult who may be the subject of an Ashanti Alert;

(3) develop proposed protocols for efforts to recover missing adults and to reduce the number of adults who are reported missing, including protocols for procedures that are needed from the time of initial notification of a law enforcement agency that the adult is missing through the time of the return of the adult to family, guardian, or domicile, as appropriate, including—

(A) public safety communications protocol;

(B) case management protocol;

(C) command center operations;

(D) reunification protocol;

(E) incident review, evaluation, debriefing, and public information procedures; and

(F) protocols for declining to issue an Ashanti Alert;

(4) work with States and Indian Tribes to ensure appropriate regional coordination of various elements of the network;

(5) establish an advisory group to assist States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other entities involved in the Ashanti Alert communications network with initiating, facilitating, and promoting Ashanti Alert plans, which shall include—

(A) to the maximum extent practicable, representation from the various geographic regions of the United States; and

(B) members who are—

(i) representatives of adult citizen advocacy groups, law enforcement agencies,