

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU BELIEVE YOUR CHILD HAS RUN AWAY

If you believe the child ran away and was NOT abducted.

- ✓ Check with the child's friends, neighbors, relatives school staff, employer, co-workers. Ask them to notify you immediately if they hear from the child.
- ✓ Check locations that your child tends to frequent.
- ✓ If you are not living together, contact the child's other parent to determine if he or she has any information.
- ✓ Check the child's room, school locker and desk for clues regarding where he or she may have gone.
- ✓ Determine if possessions are missing, including withdrawals from bank account.
- ✓ Check past telephone bills for unusual long-distance calls.
- ✓ Review information stored on computers and disks. Pay close attention to e-mail, chat and instant messaging activity.
- ✓ Check area hospitals and transportation terminals.
- ✓ Notify a law enforcement agency and provide them with all available details. Ensure the child's name and biographical information into New York State and National Crime Information Center computer networks.
- ✓ Contact the N.Y. State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse at **1-800-FIND-KID**.
- ✓ Keep a detailed list of people and agencies that you have contacted and steps that you have taken.
- ✓ If the child has run away before, contact the person that he or she was with during the previous episode. Also, check the location(s) where he or she stayed during the previous episode.