Fact Sheet

Missing Child Program

2019

The U.S. Marshals Service supports the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s mission to protect children from victimization by providing assistance to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. Since the U.S. Marshals partnership with NCMEC began in 2005, the Marshals have helped recover more than 1,231 missing children.

Requests received from law enforcement for assistance in missing child cases | 353
Missing children recovered with assistance from U.S. Marshals | 242

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 enhanced the U.S. Marshals’ authority to assist federal, state and local law enforcement with the recovery of missing, endangered or abducted children, regardless of whether a fugitive or sex offender was involved. The Marshals established a Missing Child Unit to oversee and manage the implementation of its enhanced authority under the act.

Upon request, the Marshals assist other law enforcement agencies with the recovery of “critically missing children,” who have gone missing under circumstances that indicate an elevated risk to the child.