



**Trim at  
crop marks**

**Missing Persons Categories**

Term	Definition
Catastrophic Missing	Missing person is possibly a victim of a disaster (e.g., boating accident, plane crash, earthquake, flood, fire, terrorist act, etc.)
Dependent Adult	Adult who has physical or mental limitations which restrict his/her ability to carry out normal activities (e.g., Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, autism)
Lost	Missing person who has strayed away and whose whereabouts are unknown
Parent/Family Abduction	Child who is taken, detained, concealed, enticed away, or retained by a parent/family member or person at the request of the parent
Runaway	Any child who is voluntarily missing
Stranger Abduction	Missing person taken/kidnapped by a stranger
Suspicious Circumstances	Circumstances which give rise to the belief that “foul play” may have been involved; the disappearance is out of character for the individual, and no known reason can be determined
Unknown Missing	Child or adult who is reported missing, but there are insufficient facts to determine the circumstances
Voluntary Missing Adult	Missing adult who has left on his/her own free will

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**California Department of Justice (DOJ)**

Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit in Sacramento 916 227-3290

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