



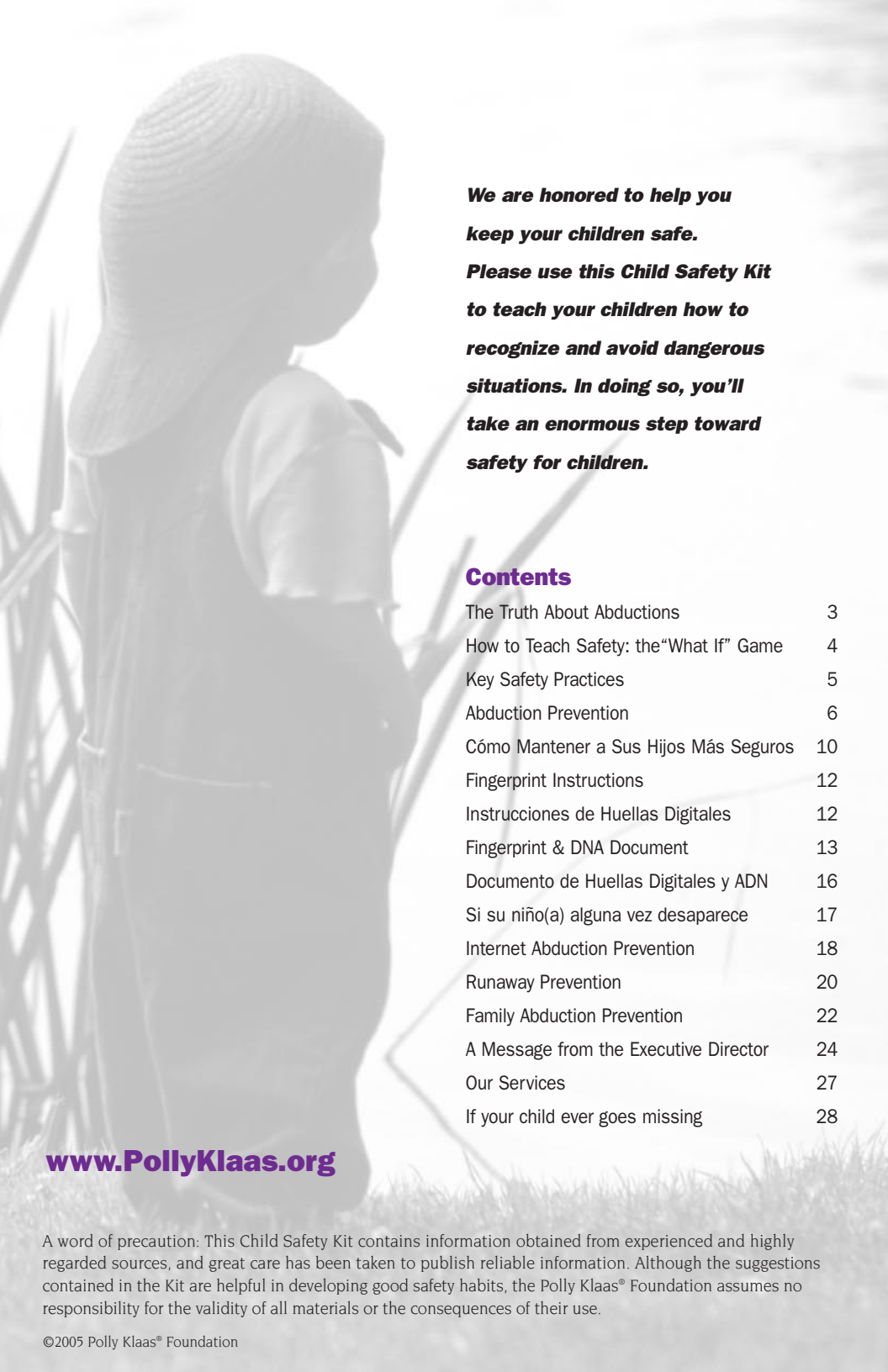
Child Safety Kit

Teach abduction prevention without scaring your child (or yourself)

From the
Polly Klaas®
Foundation

Includes two home-use Fingerprint and DNA Documents.

For all ages.



***We are honored to help you
keep your children safe.
Please use this Child Safety Kit
to teach your children how to
recognize and avoid dangerous
situations. In doing so, you'll
take an enormous step toward
safety for children.***

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A word of precaution: This Child Safety Kit contains information obtained from experienced and highly regarded sources, and great care has been taken to publish reliable information. Although the suggestions contained in the Kit are helpful in developing good safety habits, the Polly Klaas® Foundation assumes no responsibility for the validity of all materials or the consequences of their use.

When you hear scary statistics remember:

99.8% of the children who go missing do come home*

The Polly Klaas® Foundation is a nationally recognized authority in the field of missing children. We help find missing children and prevent children from going missing in the first place.

- Nearly 90% of missing children have simply misunderstood directions or miscommunicated their plans, are lost, or have run away.
- 9% are kidnapped by a family member in a custody dispute.
- 3% are abducted by non-family members, usually during the commission of a crime such as robbery or sexual assault. The kidnapper is often someone the child knows.
- Only about 100 children (a fraction of 1%) are kidnapped each year in the stereotypical stranger abductions you hear about in the news.

And about half of these 100 come home.

The truth

Traffic hazards are a much greater danger to your child than a kidnapper. All parents teach their kids how to cross the street. It's no big deal. We give them the rules and help them practice until they show us they **know** what to do and can be trusted to **do it**.

Here's the good news

We can teach kids what to do if lost or approached by someone questionable in the same way we teach them how to cross the street. This kit will show you how.

We'll start with what to do if they are lost. Turn to the "What If" game—a game to teach safety without scaring your child (or yourself).

*National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children, 2002, U.S. Department of Justice





“What If” Game

- You say to your child: “What if we were out at the store and you looked around and you couldn’t see me? Who would you go to for help?”
- Your child might answer: “A policeman.”
- “That’s right, you could go to a policeman. But if you didn’t see a policeman nearby could you go to the cashier?”
- “And if you didn’t see a cashier, could you go to a mom with kids? Sure you could.”
- “And how could you ask for help? Could you tell the cashier your full name, and then say, ‘Can you help me find my mom?’”
- “Okay, so you’ve asked someone for help. Now you need to stay there and wait until I come and get you. Can you do that?”
- “What if someone tried to make you go with him? What could you do then?”
- “That’s right! Yell and scream. Yell ‘No, you’re not my dad (mom)!’ Can you do that? Let’s practice it together!”

This is the first and most important lesson in abduction prevention. It teaches a child to assess the situation, decide to seek help, find a safe person to ask for help, how to ask, how not to be lured away, and how to yell, **“No!”**

Three suggestions

- Play “*What If*” for anything on the Key Safety Practices list or in the Abduction Prevention Guidelines section.
- If your child is reluctant to play “*What If*” try reversing the roles. “You be the grown-up and I’ll be the kid.” Hearing mom yell, “No, you’re not my dad!” cracks kids up but they still learn from it.
- Just be sure not to phrase the “What if” in a scary way. Say: “What if you were walking home and saw someone you felt nervous about?” Don’t say, “What if a big pickup pulled up and a stranger jumped out?”

Three good reasons not to use the word “stranger”

- Children think “strangers” are dirty and scary looking. But most people who intend to harm children are careful to look nice and act friendly.
- There’s more risk from people a child knows than from strangers.
- If you’ve based your safety plan on warning kids about “strangers,” they’ll be handicapped in getting help from someone they don’t know.

Finally, how much time will your safety training plan take? Spend at least as much time on abduction prevention as you do on street crossing safety. Tell kids what you expect, play “*What If*” games, and don’t turn them loose until they’ve mastered the rules.

Key safety practices

For kids to know

- Your name, address, telephone number, and parents' names.
- Check first. If any older person offers you something or invites you somewhere, ask mom or dad first.
- Hang with a friend. Kids are safer in groups.
- It's not your fault if someone hurts you or tricks you. Be sure to tell a trusted adult—it's not tattling.
- If home alone, keep doors and windows locked. Don't let anyone in, not even a policeman, without checking first with a parent.
- Kids should yell "No," run away, and tell if an adult breaks any of these rules:
 - Adults don't need to ask kids for help.
 - Adults should not offer anything to a kid.
 - Adults should not ask kids to keep secrets.
 - No one should touch a kid's private parts (parts covered by a swimsuit) or ask a kid to touch their own or another's private parts.

How kids can get help

- Find a safe adult like a mom with kids or a cashier, ask for help, then stay there and wait, don't go looking for mom or dad.
- If you feel threatened yell, "No! You're not my mom (or dad)!" Run away and get help.
- Break the rules if you're in danger. Yell, run, drop your books, and even knock over boxes in the store to get attention.
- It's okay to call 9-1-1 if you need help right away.



And for parents

- Say "I love you."
- Respect kids' instincts. If they feel weird about something, there's probably a reason. Help them figure out what to do.
- Check out the **Internet Abduction Prevention, Runaway Prevention, and Family Abduction Prevention** sections.
- Teaching safety is an on-going process, but it doesn't have to be scary. Start now, but expect to return to the topic all the way through the teen years. The **Abduction Prevention Guidelines** section provides more information.

800-587-4357

Abduction prevention guidelines

What parents need to know (and how to say it to your child)

Teaching these skills can be empowering for both you and your child. Practicing these coping strategies doesn't usually scare a child, unless **you** convey fear. So just try to be very matter-of-fact.

- Train your children to **check first** before accepting anything from other adults, before helping someone older, or before going anywhere with anyone. If the clerk in the store offers a piece of candy, even if you're right there, a child should always respond, "I have to ask first."
- Help your child say "**No!**" to adults. Children who are polite and compliant are at risk. Children are safer when they can recognize adults breaking the adult rules (like offering treats or asking for help), and can say "No!" and come tell you.
- Encourage children to **tell you** (or another trusted adult) if someone has made them afraid or uncomfortable. Ask: "Who could you tell if you couldn't tell me?" Tell them: "Keep on telling until someone helps you."
- As children become more independent, be sure they use the **buddy system**. Kids are safer in groups of two or more.
- Teach children about sex and sexuality. If this embarrasses you, tell them, "The private parts of your body are the parts covered by a swimming suit. No one is allowed to touch your private parts except sometimes a doctor when mom or dad is there with you." Your children's librarian can help you find books on sexuality appropriate for any age child.
- Listen to your children when they talk about family members or other adults who make them feel uncomfortable or scared. Children's instincts are often accurate.
- Assure children that should they ever become separated from you, you will always look for them.
- Set an example of good safety habits for your child. For example, always tell kids how long you will be gone and where you can be reached. And call home if plans change! They will follow your example.
- Help your children talk freely about themselves and their feelings. Children who feel listened to are less likely to seek approval from inappropriate people.
- Know your neighbors and your children's friends and parents. Keep a list of their phone numbers and addresses.
- Be sure your child's day care center, youth organization, and school screen employees.
- Make sure the labels on kids' clothing and belongings are not visible. Knowledge of children's names can be used to gain their trust or put them off guard.

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For parents of children from birth to pre-school age

- Keep an eye on your child all the time.
- Hold toddlers by the hand or keep them in shopping carts or strollers when away from home.
- *Don't* leave kids alone in the car even for a second.
- It's time for your child to *begin* learning full name, address, phone number, and parents' names. Of course, children master these skills at different ages. Try making a game of it. Sing your address to the tune of one of their favorite songs, for example.
- Introduce the "What If" game to start teaching kids to check first before accepting treats.
- Begin teaching decision-making skills. Ask, "Which would you rather wear, your blue pajamas or your red ones?" This will help later on if children need to say no to inappropriate requests from adults.
- Children in this age group are most at risk of family abduction. Take threats of abduction from former partners seriously. Review the section on **Family Abduction Prevention**.

For parents of six- to ten-year olds

Use "What If?" games to check a child's readiness for more independence. As you act out the game, encourage children to yell "No!" loudly and quickly run to a safe place.

- "What if I was late to pick you up from school and someone offered to drive you home?" (Be sure your child knows to check first, no matter who offers. Children of separated or divorced parents should know their visitation times and check first if the other parent shows up unexpectedly.)
 - "What if you were supposed to walk home with your friend and he was sick that day? What could you do so you didn't walk alone?" (The buddy system is best for children of *all* ages. Be sure children know what you want them to do in this emergency.)
 - "What if one of the neighbors insisted that you help carry a box inside the house? Could you say no and run away and come tell me? Even if s/he scolded you? You bet you could. And I'd go back and explain our safety rules." (Adults shouldn't be asking kids for help.)
 - "What if an adult or any older person was being really friendly and offered you a treat and you thought it might sound rude to say no. Could you still say no? Sure you could!" (Adults shouldn't offer kids treats or trips without asking their parents.)
 - "What if an adult or any older person took something of yours and wanted you to get close to get it back?" (Don't take anything from anyone, even something of your own. Run away and get help.)
- A six- to ten-year-old should know:**
- Full name and parents' full names
 - Address, including state and country
 - How to make a phone call (including area code)
 - How and when to dial 9-1-1. ("When you need help right now and it can't wait.")



As parents of six- to ten-year olds, you should also:

- Know the times and route(s) your child travels to school and activities.
- Help children identify safe people and places in your neighborhood to run to for help if they feel threatened—houses, stores, phones where they can call 9-1-1.
- Encourage kids to be aware as they walk: for instance, to keep at least 3 big steps away from occupied cars.
- Remind children about private parts. Say, “No one should touch the parts of your body covered by a bathing suit, or ask you to touch theirs. If this happens to you, tell me or another trusted adult.”
- Be sure children feel comfortable “telling” by making it a family rule not to keep secrets. A child can often prevent sexual abuse by saying, “We don’t keep secrets. I’ll tell.”
- A family password can be used when you need to send someone else to pick up your child. If that person doesn’t give the password, tell your child to yell “No!” and run and get help, no matter what the person says.
- Accompany your child into public bathrooms.
- Walk your children into their new friend’s houses; meet the parents. If *you* don’t feel comfortable with the situation—don’t leave your child. Make plans for another day at *your* house.
- Call the parents before a sleepover and find out who will be there. Ask about the activities.
- Don’t let children sell door to door (or trick or treat) unless you go too.
- Be sure your children let you know where they are going, with whom, and to call you if plans change. If you are in the habit of doing this yourself, it will be easier for the kids.
- As children begin to spend time at home alone, teach them never to say you’re not there, and never to unlock the door. Have them say, “My parents can’t come to the phone (door) right now. Please call back,” and end the conversation. Tell kids who to call if they are scared or need help.
- The Internet, particularly chat rooms, online games, and instant messaging becomes more of a risk for this group. Check out the section on **Internet Abduction Prevention**. The two most important Internet rules are: always keep personal information private and never meet an online friend in person.
- Family abductions are a risk for this group, too. If you have gone through a custody dispute, be sure to review the section on **Family Abduction Prevention** or call us for our free brochure on how to protect your family.

For parents of Preteens and Teens

Many of the preceding suggestions still apply at this age. Before granting increased freedom, check out your child's ability to follow safety rules and to use good judgment. "What if?" is still a good jumping off point for discussion of new situations and rules.

- Make a deal with your kids: they can call you to pick them up any time, any place and you'll come get them. If you're angry or need to discipline, you will save it for later.
- The Internet, particularly chat rooms, online games and instant messaging poses special risks for this group. Check out the **Internet Abduction Prevention** section.
- Family abductions are a lesser risk with older teens, but if there is anger between separated parents, be sure to check the section on **Family Abduction Prevention** or call us for our free brochure on how to protect your family.
- Kids at this age are still vulnerable to predators and should recognize lures or cons from adults like asking for help or directions, offering rides or jobs, or offering to take their photograph.
- In the teen years, kids need special encouragement to "tell" if someone has tricked or harmed them.
- Educate teens about sex and sexuality, so they will be less vulnerable to sexual advances by predators.
- Watch for signs that your teen is using drugs or alcohol and seek help if you detect them. Drugs and alcohol can affect judgment and make kids more vulnerable to being exploited.
- Check out the **Internet Abduction Prevention** and **Runaway Prevention** sections.

800-587-4357

Cómo mantener a sus hijos más seguros

Este Kit de Seguridad Infantil (*Child Safety Kit*) contiene sugerencias para los padres acerca de cómo mantener a sus hijos alejados del peligro y enseñarles a protegerse a sí mismos.

Consejos de Seguridad

Enséñele a sus hijos

- **Enséñele** a su niño a decir su nombre completo y los nombres completos de sus padres. Enséñele a su hijo su dirección, incluyendo la ciudad y el estado, y el número de teléfono, incluyendo el código de área. Practiquen hasta que el lo pueda decir fácilmente.
 - **Los niños siempre deben de informarles** a alguien a dónde van. Los padres pueden dar un buen ejemplo diciéndoles a sus hijos cuándo van a salir y en dónde se les puede encontrar. Los niños nunca deben de ir a ninguna parte solos. Están más seguros con un amiguito.
 - **Enséñele** a su hijo a pedir permiso siempre antes de aceptar golosinas o regalos o ir a algún lugar con alguien, incluso con alguien que conozcan. Un niño debe de avisarle a uno de sus padres o a un adulto de confianza si alguien le ofrece regalos, dinero o un trabajo; si alguien quiere tomarle una fotografía; o si alguien intenta hacerle mantener un secreto. Si este adulto no lo escucha, enséñele que debe de insistir hasta que alguien lo escuche realmente.
- Para que los niños sepan**
- **Dígale** a su hijo que está bien decirles “NO” a los adultos. Un niño que se siente amenazado debe gritar fuerte:
- “¡No, usted no es mi mamá!” (o papá), gritar y llamar mucho la atención. La seguridad es más importante que la amabilidad, y hay momentos en los cuales queremos que nuestros hijos griten y sean groseros para que puedan estar a salvo.
- **Los niños deben de conocer** las partes privadas de sus cuerpos (las partes cubiertas por un traje de baño) y deben de decir “¡NO!” y contarles a sus padres o a un adulto de confianza si alguien toca sus partes privadas o les pide que toquen las partes privadas de otra persona. Si este adulto no los escucha, los niños deben de insistir hasta que alguien les crea. Los padres deben de escuchar, creer y apoyar a sus hijos cuando estos les informan que han sido tocados de manera indebida.
 - **Si un niño está solo** en casa, este nunca debe de decir que sus padres no se encuentran y nunca debe de abrir la puerta cuando alguien toca la puerta o el timbre. Sin abrir la puerta, el niño puede decir que sus padres están ocupados y pedirle al visitante que regrese más tarde.
 - **Los niños que usan el Internet** nunca deberían de dar información personal (nombre, edad, dirección, ciudad, fotografías, nombre de su escuela, número de teléfono, nombres de los padres, etc.). NUNCA deberían de conocer a un amigo del Internet en



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persona y deben de contarle a un adulto de confianza si algo en el Internet los hace sentir atemorizados, inquietos o confundidos.

- **Los niños siempre deben de permanecer** 3 pasos grandes de distancia de los automóviles ocupados. Si se les acerca alguien en un automóvil, deben de dar un paso atrás y correr en dirección opuesta a la del automóvil.

Como los niños pueden obtener ayuda

- **Los niños deben de saber** cómo llamar al 9-1-1 y a la Operadora en caso de emergencia y deben de saber que no cuesta dinero, incluso desde un teléfono publico.
- **Enséñele** a su hijo qué hacer si alguna vez se pierde. Un niño debe de encontrar un adulto de confianza, pedirle ayuda, quedarse allí mismo y esperarlo a usted, no salir a buscarlo. Un adulto de confianza puede ser el cajero de una tienda, una madre con niños o un policía, variará según los lugares. Ayúdele a su hijo a pensar en la persona más adecuada en cada lugar al que van juntos.

Y para los padres

- **Escuche** a su hijo. Lo más importante que usted puede hacer para mantener a su hijo alejado del peligro es construir una relación basada en el amor, el

respeto y una comunicación abierta. Los niños desean saber que usted los ama, que los protegerá y siempre los buscará si alguna vez desaparecen por cualquier razón.

- **Los delincuentes utilizan trucos** para atraer a los niños. Por ejemplo, les piden direcciones o solicitan ayuda para buscar una mascota perdida o para cargar algo. Enséñele a su hijo que los adultos no necesitan pedirles ayuda a los niños. Si un adulto le pide ayuda a un niño, éste debe de decir “NO”, salir corriendo y contarle a sus padres u otro adulto responsable.
- **Asegúrese** de que su hijo no use ropa o porte cosas que tengan su nombre visible.
- **Los niños pequeños** siempre deben de estar bajo la supervisión de un adulto responsable.

Instructions for Fingerprint & DNA Document

The Fingerprint & DNA Document by itself will not keep your child safe, but it will provide vital information if your child ever goes missing. Complete it, update it often, and keep it in a safe place.

You might want to fill out this Document with your child by asking the questions and letting your child provide the answers. That way you'll find out what you need to teach. If your child asks why you're doing this, simply say, "So we'll have all the information about you in one place in case of an emergency."

Update photographs and record new height and weight measurements every six months for younger children and at least yearly after age six.

In completing this Document you've prepared for a most unlikely emergency.

Instrucciones para el Documento de Huellas Digitales y ADN

Este Documento de Huellas Digitales y ADN por si solo no mantendrá seguro a su niño. Pero si contiene información vital en caso que su hijo(a) desapareciera. Complételo, actualícelo a menudo y guárdelo en un lugar seguro.

Puede llenar este documento con su niño, hágale preguntas y deje que él/ella las conteste por si mismo(a). De ésta manera usted sabrá que es lo que necesita enseñarle. Si su niño(a) pregunta porqué está haciendo esto, simplemente conteste: "Para tener toda la información acerca de ti en algún lugar en caso de emergencia".

Actualice las fotografías y lleve un récord nuevo de altura y peso (cada seis meses para niños menores de seis años y por lo menos cada año para mayores de seis años).

Completando el Documento de Huellas Digitales y ADN, usted está preparándose para la emergencia más improbable.

800-587-4357

Fingerprint & DNA Document

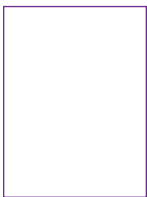
Place a head & shoulders color photo here.
Update it every year (every six months for younger children).

Fingerprint record

Read all instructions first!

Practice on paper before applying prints. A flat print is acceptable for identification when the center of the fingerprint is clear and unsmudged. Rolling the finger is NOT necessary and may smear the print. For very small children you may do all four fingers at once. If the prints are not clear, keep trying on a separate sheet of paper until you get good prints. Store the sheet with the Fingerprint & DNA Document.

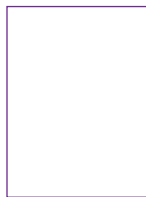
- Use a black stamp pad that makes clear prints.
- Hold your child's finger rigid, placing your forefinger over the cuticle area.
- Lightly place child's finger on ink, then lightly apply to correct space below.



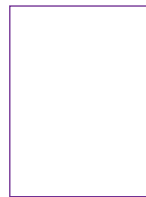
Right thumb



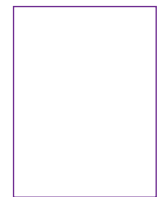
Right index



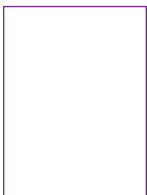
Right middle



Right ring



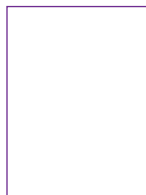
Right little



Left thumb



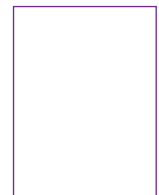
Left index



Left middle



Left ring



Left little

The Polly Klaas® Foundation does not assume responsibility for the quality of information and/or fingerprints contained within. For best results, fingerprinting should be done by a trained professional.

Place your child's hair sample here. Include 25 to 50 strands with root attached. Collect them using a clean hairbrush. Seal them in a plastic bag and tape it here.

Enter the following information with your child:

My name is _____ Today's date _____

My nickname is _____ I am a boy/girl _____

My street address is _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

(_____)

My home phone number is (including area code) _____

My eye color is _____ My hair color is _____

My special identifying features like pierced ears, glasses, scars, birthmarks are _____

My mother's name is _____

My mother's street address is _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

(_____)

(_____)

Her home phone is _____ Her office/cell phone is _____

My father's name is _____

My father's street address is _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

(_____)

(_____)

His home phone is _____ His office/cell phone is _____

My guardian's name is _____

My guardian's street address is _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My guardian's home phone is _____ My guardian's office/cell phone is _____

Child's birthdate _____ Child's race _____ Weight _____ Height _____

Doctor _____ Phone _____

Current Medications (if any) _____

Allergies (if any) _____

Chronic illnesses (if any) _____ Blood type (if known) _____

Dentist _____ Phone _____

Ponga una muestra del cabello de su hijo(a) aquí. Incluya de 25 a 50 cabellos con raíz. Recoléclos usando un cepillo limpio, guárdelos en una bolsa de plástico sellada y adhírala aquí.

Registre la siguiente información con su niño(a):

Mi nombre Fecha de hoy

Mi apodo Soy niño/niña

Mi dirección

Ciudad Estado Código Postal
()

Mi número telefónico (incluyendo el código de area)

Mi color de ojos Mi color de cabello

Mis características especiales como aretes, anteojos, cicatrices, marcas de nacimiento:

Nombre de mi madre

Dirección de mi madre

Ciudad Estado Código Postal
() ()

Teléfono en casa Teléfono de Oficina/ Celular

Nombre de mi padre

Dirección de mi padre

Ciudad Estado Código Postal
() ()

Teléfono en casa Teléfono de Oficina/cell

Nombre del tutor

Dirección del tutor

Ciudad Estado Código Postal

Teléfono en casa Teléfono de Oficina/Celular

Fecha de nacimiento del niño(a) Raza Peso Altura

Doctor Teléfono

Medicamentos (si toma regularmente)

Alergias (si se sabe de alguna)

Enfermedades crónicas (si existen) Tipo de sangre (si se conoce)

Dentista Teléfono

Documento de Huellas Digitales y ADN

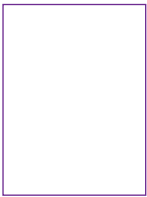
Huellas Digitales

Lea todas las instrucciones primero.

Practique en un papel antes de tomar las huellas en este Documento. Una huella digital es aceptable para identificación cuando el centro de la huella esta claro y sin manchas. No es necesario rodar el dedo, se puede manchar la huella. A los niños muy pequeños se les puede tomar las huellas de los cuatro dedos simultáneamente. Si las huellas digitales no están claras, utilice la tinta sobrante para tomar las huellas digitales en una hoja de papel por separado hasta obtener huellas claras y guárdelas con este Documento.

Coloque una fotografía reciente a color (cabeza y cuello). Actualice las fotografías cada año y cada seis meses para niños menores.

- Coloque un cojín de tinta que produzca huellas claras.
- Sostenga el dedo de su niño y manténgalo firme, colocando su propio dedo índice sobre la cutícula del dedo del niño.
- Suavemente coloque el dedo del niño sobre la tira de tinta y luego aplique suavemente la huella en el espacio indicado para cada dedo.



Pulgar derecho



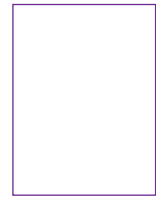
Índice derecho



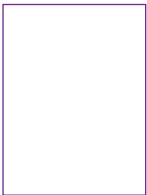
Medio derecho



Anular derecho



Meñique derecho



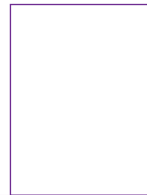
Pulgar izquierdo



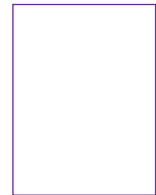
Índice izquierdo



Medio izquierdo



Anular izquierdo



Meñique izquierdo

La Fundación Polly Klaas no se responsabiliza por la calidad de la información y/o huellas digitales en este documento. Para mejores resultados las huellas deben ser tomadas por un profesional capacitado.



Si su niño(a) alguna vez desaparece

- No espere
- Llame al 9-1-1 inmediatamente
- Proceda a una rápida búsqueda por el área
- Déle el Documento de Huellas Digitales y ADN a la policía
- Llame a la Fundación Polly Klaas al tel. 800-587-4357

Internet abduction prevention

The Internet is a valuable tool, but there are substantial risks for kids online. It's a place where a child can easily encounter a dangerous person who wants to become their new "best friend." In addition, kids can receive inappropriate spam or pornography; they may fall victim to identity theft; or open e-mail containing viruses.

From our files (names have been changed):

Juliana's story

Fifteen-year-old Juliana from California had spent the winter researching modeling agencies on the Internet. When she disappeared in February, she first erased all her e-mail and changed her screen name. Investigators knew that Juliana was traveling to meet someone she met online.

Fortunately, the FBI was able to track Juliana by the bus ticket she purchased. They located her part way through her trip to New York City to meet the predator who had promised her fame as a model and had sent her money for the trip. Juliana came home safely.

Todd and Jared's story

Todd (16 years) and Jared (15 years) spent lots of time together on the Internet. On the day they disappeared in January, one thing they took with them was the hard drive from Jared's computer.

Investigators discovered that Todd and Jared had planned to run away for some time.

Right before they left, Todd intentionally crashed his mother's computer so she wouldn't be able to find any of the e-mails that would reveal their plans.

Investigators located Todd and Jared three months later in New York City, where the 25-year-old man who had lured them had rented an apartment specifically for them. Fortunately, the boys returned home safely.

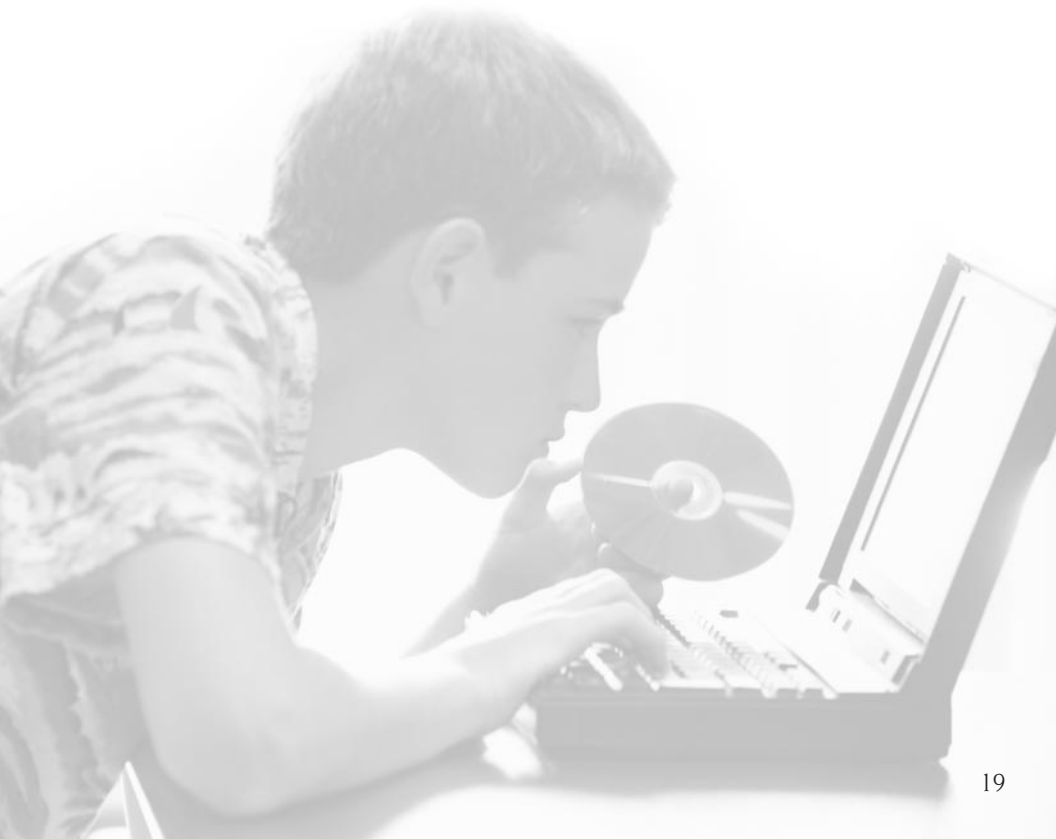
www.PollyKlaas.org



What you can do

- To build a family Internet safety plan, check out Internet Safety on www.PollyKlaas.org.
- Place the computer in an area that is accessible to the whole family, where you can observe your children's online activities.
- Enjoy time with your children while on the Internet together.
- Recognize warning signs like screen switching when you enter the room, phone calls for your child from strange adults, Internet use at odd hours of the night, a sudden influx of cash, or emotional withdrawal from family or friends.
- Create an environment where your child can confide in you without fear of being punished.
- Protect your children from online predators by monitoring chat room interactions.
- Help your child understand the greatest danger online—meeting a cyber buddy in person. If your child insists on a meeting, go with him or her, and arrange to meet in a public place.

For further information or help if your child has been lured by someone they met on the Internet, please contact the Polly Klaas® Foundation at 800-587-4357.



Runaway prevention

The myth about runaways is that they are not at risk because they've chosen to leave home. The truth is that kids aren't safe by themselves on the streets.

If you think your child might be at risk of running away, please call the Polly Klaas® Foundation at 800-587-4357. Our caseworkers can help you take steps to improve your relationship with your child—so kids stay home. It's worth almost any amount of effort.

From our files—one of our saddest stories (names have been changed):

One February, 16-year-old Jessica and her 19-year-old boyfriend, Mark, left home to run away to Florida. For three weeks, Jessica and Mark lived on the streets.

In mid-March, Jessica called home to ask for money for the trip home. She picked up the money that afternoon. Mark called his mother a week later to say that he and Jessica were doing fine and were heading home. They planned to make a stop in North Carolina to visit a relative.

Two days later, Mark's body was found in Marion County, FL near the railroad tracks. The search for Jessica intensified but there were no clues. During the next three years, the Polly Klaas® Foundation did everything possible to keep Jessica's case before the public and to help bring her home. We distributed thousands of flyers, put a banner on our website, and made a place for Jessica in our We Still Care program.

Three years later an inmate on death row in Texas provided a map directing law enforcement officials to Jessica's body. He told police that he met Jessica and Mark on the day of Mark's last call. They had decided to hop a grain car together and find work picking oranges. He killed both Jessica and Mark that same day.

Kids usually run from an intolerable family situation or to find or get something they don't have at home. Some of the warning signs are:

- Arguments, yelling, hurt feelings and failure to agree
- Impulsive or irrational behavior—either yours or your child's
- Involvement with an antisocial peer group
- Child abuse in the family
- Alcohol or other drug use by the family or child
- Divorce, separation or death in the family

800-587-4357



What you can do

- Support your child's needs to mature and seek independence.
- Defend your children openly against harassment or verbal abuse of any kind.
- Start working to minimize angry conflict and improve communication.
- Stay calm and don't respond with anger or name-calling, even if your child is yelling.
- Avoid interrupting when your teen is talking.

- If you get overwhelmed when talking with your teen, say, "I'm upset. I need a break to think about this." Take that break, do something calming, and then come back to talk again.

For more information, check out some of the many books available on communicating with your child. Your librarian can help you find them.

Seek help to deal with family conflict for your child and yourself. The Polly Klaas® Foundation can refer you to professionals in your area.

Call 800-587-4357.

Family abduction prevention

Family abductions account for almost 80% of abducted children every year. The motive for most of these kidnappings is anger or revenge against the other parent. Only rarely is it done to protect the child. But whatever the reason, family kidnapping endangers a child. The negative consequences can last a lifetime.

It's sobering to realize that family abductions are much more frequent than kidnapping by a stranger. But because you know who the potential kidnapper may be, there are preventive measures you can take. You'll find some suggestions on the next page, or visit our website: www.PollyKlaas.org for an in-depth discussion of warning signs and prevention measures.

From our files (names used with permission):

As Aja, Syna and Alixander Morse stepped off the school bus one December morning, Eugia Morse, their non-custodial mother, forced them into a car and went on the run for the next 2 years, 3 months and 15 days.

Aja later wrote: Many of you know me as "Katarina or Kat Escada," "Trisha or Trish Wilcox," or "Melissa Bleu," but my real name is Aja Morse. I am almost thirteen.

"My brother and sister and I never went to a doctor, dentist, or to school."

Three years ago my brother, sister and I were abducted. Most people don't realize how many hundreds of thousands of children in America are abducted each year. They think it's a problem parents should work out on their own. That's not true.

At the time I didn't realize how it was going to destroy my life and my brother and sister's. I was always afraid that the police were going to find us or that I'd mess up on one of my new names. My brother and sister and I never went to a doctor, dentist or to school. I was lucky that I was found, but there are thousands of other children still missing. They need help.

The Polly Klaas® Foundation has compassionate and professional caseworkers who can help you prevent family kidnapping or recover a child who has been taken by a family member. If you have any reason to believe your child is in danger of family kidnapping, contact us immediately at 800-587-4357. Or call and request our fact sheet on family abductions.



www.PollyKlaas.org

What you can do

- Begin the custody process immediately if you and your child's other parent are separated.
- Assure your children that should they ever become separated from you they should attempt to contact you because you will always be looking for them.
- Teach your children to be aware of their schedules of visitation with each parent.
- Ensure your children know your phone number, how to reach you and that it is imperative for them to call if their visitation schedule changes.
- Teach your child his or her full name, your name, address, city, state, country and telephone number.
- Consider counseling. As little as ten hours can reduce the risk of abduction.
- Respect your ex-partner's custody and visitation rights.
- Maintain relationships with your ex-partner's family and friends.
- Keep current copies of all court documents and provide them to your children's day care and schools.
- Record and document abduction threats. Report them to the courts or your lawyer immediately.
- Keep lists of identifying information about the other parent. Complete the Child ID folder in this kit and keep it in a safe place.



P.O. Box 800
Petaluma, CA 94953

Dear Friend,

This Child Safety Kit is **free** because someone like you made a donation to cover the cost of printing and mailing. Please keep and use the Child Safety Kit with no obligation.

But if you're able to, **won't you please make a similar donation so that others can get the same support** you've received?

Here are the problems we are facing:

- Requests for the Child Safety Kit by families, teachers, and law enforcement have more than **tripled in the last year**.
- We need to raise more funds in order to keep sending Child Safety Kits to everyone who needs them.
- We don't want to start charging for Kits—we would rather ask people to donate instead.

We are depending on people like you to form a self-sustaining safety chain of donations to **help us bring safety information to each and every parent** who needs it. With the help of people like you, we can extend the safety chain across America.

We want to get the Kits out to as many people as we can—they are life savers!

- Police officers often tell us this Child Safety Kit is the best available.

800-587-4357



- **“Thank you so much for this opportunity to help keep my children safe,”** a mother from Texas writes. **“My children’s school offers similar kits but at a fee a single mom of four can’t afford.”**

Please join us and **become a link in the safety chain** today. Send your donation in the enclosed envelope. Or visit **www.PollyKlaas.org** and use our secure donation page. Consider a gift in honor of someone who has made a difference in a child’s life.

Your donation also helps us promote life-saving laws like Amber Alert, provide vital safety education, and counsel families who are desperately trying to find their missing children. We thank you very much for your active concern for the safety of children

Yours truly,

Anita T. Galins
Executive Director

P.S. 95% of our funding comes from individuals like you. In the past year, the average donation for Child Safety Kits was \$23.56.

If you can’t give that much, it would help a lot if you would put a few dollars in the envelope and drop it in the mail.



Our Values

- We cherish children and protect them every way we can.
- We value the uniqueness of each family and provide exceptional service with respect, compassion, and discretion.
- We help the community meet its responsibility to keep children safe.
- We foster relationships and networks critical to keeping children safe.
- Every family has the right to receive our services, materials, and resources free of charge.
- We value creativity and work to increase the scope, quality, and depth of our service.
- We value the *power of hope* and will provide a lifeline to families as long as they need us.

Our services

The Polly Klaas® Foundation is a national nonprofit that helps find missing children and prevents them from going missing in the first place.

- Our hotline is open 24/7 for families of missing children and law enforcement officers working to find missing kids.
- We distribute tens of thousands of Child Safety Kits throughout the world each year. We publish a monthly online newsletter with timely safety information that helps parents teach their children how to be safer.
- We work with policymakers on legislation like Amber Alerts that protect and defend our children—to prevent abductions and build awareness about the issue of missing children.



*Polly Hannah Klaas
1981–1993*

Our history

We started this work in 1993 when thousands of volunteers from the San Francisco Bay Area and around the world responded to the kidnapping of 12-year-old Polly Klaas, and joined in an unprecedented two-month international search. Although the outcome was tragic, we were determined to prevent future abductions and to offer the priceless lessons we learned in Polly's search to other families in need. Out of this tragedy, the Polly Klaas® Foundation was born.

How you can help

Your financial support is needed. The Polly Klaas® Foundation is funded almost entirely by private donations. We are able to continue this important work only because of donations from people like you. More than 80% of our funding directly supports our mission. Donate online at www.PollyKlaas.org or use the envelope in this book.



Making America Safe for All Children

P.O. Box 800
Petaluma, CA 94953

800-587-4357

The Polly Klaas Foundation is a national nonprofit that helps find missing children, prevents children from going missing in the first place, and works with policymakers to pass laws that help keep children safe.

If your child ever goes missing

- Don't wait
- Call 9-1-1 immediately
- Conduct a quick search of the area
- Give this ID kit to the police
- Call the Polly Klaas® Foundation at **800-587-4357**

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