

	Abbotsford Police Department	
	Operations	Incident Response
	II.B.120	Missing Persons

PURPOSE

- (1) To establish an overall approach to be taken in Missing Person investigations by the Abbotsford Police Department (“AbbyPD”).
- (2) To ensure that all Missing Person investigations are prioritized and undertaken at a high standard appropriate to identified risks.

DEFINITIONS

- (3) **Missing Person** –anyone reported to police or by police as someone whose whereabouts are unknown, whatever the circumstances of their disappearance, and who are considered missing until located.
- (4) **Reportee** - the individual making a report of a Missing Person to the police.

POLICY

- (5) AbbyPD Missing Persons investigations will be guided by the principles laid out in section “[PRINCIPLES](#)”.
- (6) AbbyPD Missing Persons investigations will be conducted in compliance with AbbyPD Standard Operating Procedure SOP 20-01 Missing Persons, BC Provincial Policing Standards with respect to Missing Persons, and all relevant legislation.

PRINCIPLES

- (7) There should be no barriers to reporting a Missing Person and investigations should begin without delay. All Missing Person reports made to the AbbyPD are accepted.
- (8) Investigations into persons reported missing should initially be approached as high risk until a risk assessment is completed. A member will conduct a risk assessment without delay and, in consultation with a supervisor, determine

the resources to be applied, the urgency with which to apply them, and possible lines of enquiry.

- (9) If foul play is suspected, the case must be assigned to the Major Crime Unit (“MCU”).
- (10) The safety and wellbeing of the Missing Person is the primary concern driving investigative tasks and decisions. Finding the Missing Person safe and well is the paramount objective.
- (11) Members will use discretion to address the unique needs of each case, with accountability for decisions through supervisory review.
- (12) Cooperation between police agencies is crucial to Missing Person investigations. AbbyPD’s designated Missing Person Investigator assists in supporting open communication and cooperation on cases crossing jurisdictional boundaries.
- (13) Families and Reportees will be kept appropriately informed of the progress of an investigation.
- (14) The right to privacy must be balanced with police responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of a Missing Person. Assigned police investigators must assess whether the Reportee may be inappropriately using the police to locate a person who does not want to have contact with the Reportee.

RELATED DOCUMENTS	
Standard:	BC Provincial Policing Standards (Section 5, Specialized Investigations)
Procedure:	SOP 20-02 Missing Persons
Legislation:	Missing Persons Act
Legislation:	Missing Persons Act Regulation
Directive:	T15-17 Missing Persons Act

DOCUMENT HISTORY	
Effective:	1999 (earliest confirmed)
Amended:	September 18, 2000 (Rev 723)
Amended:	April 16, 2002 (Rev 758)
Amended:	November 22, 2005 (Rev 844)
Amended:	March 18, 2008 (Rev 859)
Amended:	September 1, 2016

Amended:	February 21, 2017
Amended:	May 28, 2020 (Split into policy and SOP 20-02 Missing Persons)