



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, last year, the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons recorded 16,134 cases of missing persons; 10,684 were for missing children, of which 97 percent were safely returned to their families; and

WHEREAS, predators can target children through community activities, churches, schools and other organizations, or the Internet; many parents do not know when their child is being groomed by a predator; and

WHEREAS, because the anonymity of social media makes it easier for predators to reach children of all ages, parents and caregivers are encouraged to ask their children about the content they share, the applications they use, and the people they communicate with online; and

WHEREAS, families can take steps to prevent child abductions by knowing where their children play and who their friends are, and by talking with them about safety at home, at school, and on the Internet; and

WHEREAS, if a child is missing, time is always a critical factor; it is imperative that the child's family take immediate action to file a missing persons report with local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the AMBER Alert system is activated when a child is believed to be abducted by a stranger, or in danger of injury or death; the Silver Alert system is activated when a person is missing and believed to be suffering from dementia or a cognitive impairment; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons activated the AMBER Alert system 10 times and the Silver Alert system 15 times on juveniles in 2017, and helped to facilitate the successful recovery of every child involved; and

WHEREAS, each year, the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons joins the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in observing National Missing Children's Day; to commemorate this event, parents and caregivers are encouraged to talk to their children about safety; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina commends the many organizations, agencies, and individuals working throughout our state to prevent child abductions, recover missing children, and to heal victims' trauma;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 25, 2018, as "MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fourth day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.