I.   LEARNING NEED

Peace officers need to understand their legal and professional obligations as well as the need for sensitivity and effective communication when responding to a missing persons investigation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A.   State the statutory definition of:

1.   Missing person
2.   Child

B.   Discuss missing person statutes as specified in:

1.   California Penal Code
2.   California Welfare and Institutions Code

4.   LEARNING NEED

Peace officers need to know how to obtain sufficient and accurate preliminary information from the reporting party.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A.   Explain the statutory requirements for accepting a missing person report

1.   14205(a) California penal code-reports of missing persons shall be accepted without delay regardless of jurisdiction
2.   Reports can be made by phone, in writing, or by person
3.   14210 PC – Legal requirements

B.   Describe information that should be obtained, and steps taken by the initial responder to a report of a missing person, including:

1.   Verification that the report is for a missing person
2.   Classification of missing person case
3.   Determining at risk status
4.   Obtaining missing person description, recent photograph and release waiver
5.   Efforts to locate missing person
6.   Notification of a supervisor or investigator
7.   Other agency notifications
8.   Completion of the report
9.   BOLO broadcasts
10.   Entries to missing person information databases (e.g., MUPS)
11.   Amber Alert

C. Describe the conditions that influence the level of law enforcement response to a report of a missing person.

1. Age
2. Family and social environment
3. Missing person's knowledge of the area
4. Suspicious circumstances
5. Mental, emotional, medical or physical condition
6. Weather/time of day
7. Resources available to missing person
8. Length of time person has been missing
9. Parental custody status

5. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must know that a thorough preliminary investigation improves the chances of a missing person being located quickly and safely.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A. Discuss areas that should be included in an initial search for a missing person

1. Missing person's home
2. Yard/immediate area
3. Neighborhood
4. Areas where the person frequents/last seen

B. Describe how search considerations for a child might vary from those of an adult

1. Access to small areas
2. Enticed to areas adults would not normally fit into
3. May become trapped or fall asleep and not know that they have been reported missing
4. Stay within their "safety zone"

C. Explain a peace officer's primary responsibilities when responding to an abduction of a child by a parent/family member

1. Do not try to determine custody in the field by convening court
2. Protect the safety and welfare of the child
3. Uphold the law if a criminal act has occurred

D. Describe circumstances related to custody dispute situations when an officer may take a child into protective custody.

1. When it appears to the officer that one of the involved parties is likely to conceal the child, flee the jurisdiction with the child, or by flight or concealment, evade the authority of the law
2. There is no lawful custodian available to take custody of the child
3. There are conflicting custody orders or claims to custody and the parties cannot reach an agreement on who should take custody
4. The child is a victim of abduction

E. Discuss penal code notification requirements when peace officers locate a missing person.

1. Penal Code Section 14207 states when a person reported missing has been found the law enforcement agency shall immediately report that information to the Attorney General's office
2. Cancel any automated systems entries
3. Continued investigations

Description	Hours
POST Minimum Required Hours	4
Agency Specific Hours	0
Total Instructional Hours	4