

# FINDING A MISSING PERSON

## Mariana Aguilar's Guide

### BRAINSTORM

As soon as the police is contacted, close family members/friends should meet and brainstorm where they last saw the missing person, discuss recent communication, behavior of missing person before disappearing, and any other important information about person prior to disappearance

Some important topics to consider are:

- Did person use drugs or consume alcohol?
- Did person have any debt problems?
- Did person suffer from mental illnesses?
- Is person a victim of crime or violence?
- Has person recently talked about taking a long trip?
- Has person ever committed a crime?
- Does person have problems in the workplace?
- Who is the closest person to missing person?



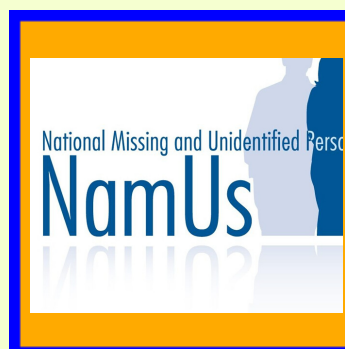
### CONTACT POLICE

As soon as the amount of days the missing person has been gone becomes strange (all depends on the person), it is crucial to immediately contact the police so that they are on the lookout and give them all of the information you gathered.



### LET THE PUBLIC KNOW

It could be useful to contact the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) so that the public can be informed and report sightings or clues. Also, register as a missing person to different places such as The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.



### SEARCH SPECIFIC PLACES

Contact places such as hospitals, jails, parks. The missing person could have been severely injured and unable to contact anyone at a hospital or be detained in jail. Also, worst case scenario the person could be unconscious in a large area such as a park.



## CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA

Looking through all of the missing person's social media can help you gain insight on what was happening in their lives and it is also helpful to see who they've been talking to recently and what subjects they've been interested in.



## FLIERS



Hang fliers around the missing person's city/town! This may not seem very effective but it is a good way to catch people's eyes and to be on the lookout for the missing person. Include name, gender, height, weight, eye/hair/skin color, contact information, and any other descriptive information that you believe is useful.

## ALERT THE MEDIA

Alert local TV news stations, magazines, newspapers, billboards, radio stations, and any other type of media. Request to publish a picture, ad, article, news report etc. of the missing person. This will spread the word very quickly and alert people.



## SURVEILLANCE

Ask to check surveillance cameras of places the missing person went to often or enjoyed going to. Also, it would be helpful to check toll cameras for any of sign the missing person's car (if they have one).



## HIRE A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR

Unlike the police, private investigators are paid to give all their attention to your case. This could be a very effective option and will work on your case as much as you need them to.



Although it is not guaranteed, these steps will be helpful in finding a missing person. It is highly recommended to talk to an expert like the police or a private investigator.