

Missing Persons Guide



Missing individuals are a huge problem all over the country. In the D.C. Metropolitan area alone, there have been 3,000+ reported cases per year over the last decade. While this statistic is scary, it is important to understand what constitutes one of these reports and a person as 'missing', and the steps and precautions that can be taken to not only understand others' reasoning for distancing themselves, but prevent unnecessary reports as well.

ARE THEY MISSING? HOW TO CHECK

1

CONSIDER

Before making any decisions, think back on the person's actions and behavior. Did they have a mental illness? Were they exhibiting symptoms of social isolation?

2

CONTACT

Try to initiate contact with not only the person you are worried about, but others close to them and ask about the situation. Then come up with a plan of action based on this.

SYMPTOMS OF SOCIAL ISOLATION

- Avoiding social interaction
- Extended periods of alone time
- Have only limited/surface level social contact
- Development of severe distress and loneliness

TAKING ACTION



Call local police.

Notify law enforcement of the person's absence as soon as possible, especially if they are under 18 or 65+.



File a report.

Explain circumstances, behavior patterns, health, and other important information to the officers.



Raise awareness.

Make sure to keep report information up to date and reach out to other organizations for help with the case.