

Saint Paul Police Department Missing Persons Unit



Hours of Operation: Monday- Friday 8:30 am - 4:30pm

Unit Phone Number: (651) 266-5612

Fax Number: (651) 266-9494

TO REPORT A MISSING PERSON: 9-1-1 or (651) 291-1111 (non-emergency)

Reporting Procedures

Runaway reports can be made for juveniles 17 years old and younger. These reports can be made at any time — there is not a set amount of time that must pass before a report can be made and entered.

The adult missing person policy is currently under revision within the department. Please call the Missing Persons Unit with any questions.

If the missing person/runaway has returned home, please use the phone numbers listed above to call and cancel the report, and it will be taken out of the system.

Other Resources

The officers working within this unit have been trained in using multiple tools to help locate both missing juveniles and adults, including computer and cell phone tracking, when applicable. The officers also have a wide variety of resources for both juveniles and adults when they are located to assist them in getting additional resources they may need. Some of these resources include:

- Midwest Children's Resource Center (MCRC) **(651) 220-6750** Answered 24 hours a day for clinic and counseling resource information
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) <http://www.missingkids.com>
- Jacob Wetterling Resource Center <http://www.jwrc.org>
- National Center for Missing Adults <http://www.theyaremissd.org>
- St. Paul Youth Services Mobile Crisis Team <http://www.spys.org/>

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to wait 24 hours after the person is missing or has runaway before I can make a police report?

No. A report for a runaway or missing juvenile can be made at any time after the juvenile is gone.

My child ran away while staying with a friend or relative in another city. Do I still make the report with St. Paul Police? I think the person may try to return to St. Paul.

No. Per Minnesota State Statute (299C.565) the missing person report must be filed in the city or jurisdiction where the person is missing from. When the report is entered into the national computer system, the St. Paul Police will know the person has been reported missing.

I know where my runaway/missing child is. What should I do?

If you have located your runaway child, you may go to the location, pick up your child and take him or her home. Once the child is home, you should notify the police department so the missing or runaway report can be cancelled.

If you are afraid your child will run from you or become violent, or you will be endangered in some way by attempting to get your child from a known address, notify police and ask for their assistance. Tell police why it may not be safe for you to go alone to get your child.

State law allows officers to take a child into custody when the child has run away from a parent, guardian, or custodian, or when the peace officer reasonably believes the child has run away from a parent, guardian, or custodian. Unless police officers have reason to believe that a child's health and welfare is at risk, they may NOT enter a premise without the owner's permission to search for a runaway child. A search of a property without the owner's consent requires a search warrant, which is not possible to obtain in most runaway cases.