



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Clarksburg, WV 26306

September 2, 2003

Dr. Johnny Veselka
Executive Director
Texas Association of School Administrators
406 East 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701-2617

Dear Dr. Veselka,

Since September 11, 2001, the nation has focused on the protection of its citizens. Our most vulnerable citizens are our children. Yet even before September 11, 2001, the statistics relating to child safety are surprising:

- 800,000 are missing every year. That is one child every 40 seconds.
- 400,000 run away from home.
- 300,000 are abducted by family members.
- 50,000 are abducted by non-family members

Yet prior to 1997, less than 2% of parents had a copy of their child's fingerprints.

In 1997, the National Child Identification Program was started by the American Football Coaches Association. To date, over 13 million identification kits have been distributed. In January 2002, the FBI partnered with the NCIDP with the goal of helping protect all 60 million children. History has proven that law enforcement efforts of fingerprinting using the traditional blank ink method can reach only a small fraction of children. This program allows fingerprinting to be decentralized with fingerprints taken by parents at home using the inkless fingerprinting process. **This program offers the most comprehensive ID Kit available to parents**, including the inkless fingerprint card, a laminated wallet card, and a DNA collection envelope. This ID kit is maintained by the parents, and in the time of need can be provided to law enforcement agencies to help locate a missing child.

In order to reach Texas' children, the FBI is requesting the assistance of the Texas Association of School Administrators. We have created a brochure that can be sent home with each child. This brochure explains the problem of missing children, explains the ID kit and the fact that is maintained by the parents, and provides an order form. This brochure is available in both English and Spanish.

The Texas Association of School Administrators can be a key element in reaching the school children of Texas. We respectfully request that you encourage the participation of each school district in this program. Brochures will be provided to each participating school district for distribution to individual schools and children.

Thank you for your participation in helping to protect Texas Children.

Sincerely,

John S. Hooks, Jr.
Deputy Assistant Director
Policy, Administrative and Liaison Branch
Criminal Justice Information Services Division