

Section 5.0 – Specialized Investigations	Page 1 of 3
Sub Section 5.1 – Missing Person Investigations	Effective: Standard (1): January 1, 2017 Standards (2)–(7), (8): September 1, 2016 Standards (7.1)–(7.2): March 1, 2019 Revised: September 15, 2018
Subject 5.1.7 – Prevention, Intervention, and Outreach	

Definitions

“BC Police Missing Persons Centre (BCPMPC)” – a provincial force unit that provides guidance and support to all police in the province for missing person investigations, and coordinates and supports unidentified human remains investigations.

“Delegated Aboriginal Agency” – an Aboriginal agency that has established a delegation agreement with the Provincial Director of Child Welfare to undertake administration of all or parts of the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*.

“Missing person” – anyone reported to police or by police as someone whose whereabouts are unknown, whatever the circumstances of their disappearance, and they are considered missing until located.

Standards

The chief constable, chief officer, or commissioner must ensure that:

Extra standard of care required for found missing persons under the age of 19

- (1) Consideration is given to conducting an interview with found missing persons under the age of 19 in an effort to determine:
 - (a) Any requirements for follow up investigation; and
 - (b) Any resources or assistance that could be offered to help promote the minor’s safety or prevent them from going missing again.

A minor has the right to refuse to cooperate or answer questions and should not be pressured to provide information.

Child protection authorities

- (2) The police force has protocols in place with Ministry of Children and Family Development authorities and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (where relevant), to facilitate missing person investigations involving youth in local group homes and foster care.

- (3) The police force has protocols in place to refer found missing persons under the age of 19 to child protection authorities for assessment of their needs, where appropriate.

Aboriginal liaison

- (4) The police force has access to at least one of the following means to obtain advice or assistance during missing person investigations where the missing person is Aboriginal:
- (a) An Aboriginal liaison officer; or
 - (b) An officer from a federal First Nations Policing Program Community Tripartite Agreement or Quadpartite Agreement; or
 - (c) Local Aboriginal leaders or organizations, through written protocol or agreement.

Protocols with other agencies

- (5) Protocols are in place with local mental health facilities, hospitals and nursing homes to facilitate missing person investigations involving patients or residents.

Frequent reports involving the same individual

- (6) If frequent reports involving the same individual are identified, the police force identifies mitigating strategies, in conjunction with relevant local agencies or resources.

Suspicious links between cases

- (7) If links between cases are suspected at any time during an investigation, or as a result of aggregate analysis, the police force:
- (a) Notifies the BCPMPC; and
 - (b) Identifies any additional action to be taken or procedures to be followed when a missing person report involving similar characteristics is received by the police force.

Public awareness of the missing person reporting and investigation process

- (7.1) Information about missing persons is available on the police force's public website, including at minimum:
- (a) How to report a missing person, including that there is no waiting period to make a report and that anyone can make a report (e.g., non-family members);
 - (b) A description or examples of the information that may be requested to assist police with the risk assessment and investigative process;
 - (c) How members of the public may provide, or seek, information about an ongoing missing person investigation; and

- (d) Information about support services and resources related to missing persons, including local victim services and links to relevant Provincial or National websites.
- (7.2) The link to the information referred to under standard (7.1) can be easily located on the main page of the police force's or RCMP detachment's website.

Policies and procedures

- (8) Policies and procedures regarding missing persons are consistent with these *BC Provincial Policing Standards*.