

Section 5.0 – Specialized Investigations	Page 1 of 2
Sub Section 5.1 – Missing Person Investigations	Effective:
Subject 5.1.6 – Concluding a Missing Person Investigation	Standard (1), (2.1): January 1, 2017 Standards (2)–(6): September 1, 2016 Revised: January 1, 2017

Definitions

“approved verifier” – a person involved in providing care or services to a found missing person, who is familiar with their current circumstances, including:

- (a) A parent or caregiver;
- (b) A social worker, youth/child protection worker or group home worker;
- (c) A transition house worker or antiviolence worker;
- (d) A doctor, psychiatrist, counsellor or other health care provider;
- (e) A victim services worker;
- (f) A shelter or outreach worker;
- (g) A lawyer or legal advocate; or
- (h) An Aboriginal support worker.

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

“Safe and well check” – personal face-to-face communication with a found missing person to confirm their identity and assess their well-being.

Standards

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

Closing a missing person investigation

- (1) A missing person report or investigation is not closed until:
 - (a) The missing person has been located and a police officer or an approved verifier has completed a safe and well check; or
 - (b) The BC Coroners Service has confirmed the identity of a deceased person or found human remains as that of the missing person; or
 - (c) If the investigation is being transferred to another police force, the other police force has confirmed its receipt of the report and responsibility for the investigation.

- (2) Closure of a missing person report or investigation must be reviewed and approved by a supervisor with such approval being documented in the case file.
- (2.1) Notwithstanding Standard (1)(a) above, a supervisor may approve the closure of a missing person report or investigation without the completion of a safe and well check provided that the supervisor:
- (a) is satisfied that the missing person's identity and well-being have been established by other means; and
 - (b) has determined that the completion of a safe and well check is either:
 - (i) not in the best interest of the missing person, having due regard to their privacy, their degree of vulnerability, and their continuing safety, or
 - (ii) clearly impracticable given the presence of extenuating circumstances; and
 - (c) documents the reasons supporting his or her decision in the case file.
- (3) Information systems (e.g., CPIC and PRIME entries) are updated as soon as possible when a missing person is located.

Disclosure

- (4) The location or whereabouts of a found missing person that is a competent adult are not disclosed to the family/reportee without the missing person's consent.
- (5) The following are considered before disclosing the location or whereabouts of a found missing person under the age of 19:
- (a) The minor's age and competency;
 - (b) Whether the minor consents to the disclosure; and
 - (c) The minor's relationship to the family/reportee.

Policies and procedures

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