

Section 5.0 – Specialized Investigations	<b>Page 1 of 2</b>
Sub Section 5.1 – Missing Person Investigations	<b>Effective:</b> <b>Standard (1):</b> January 1, 2017 <b>Standards (2)–(8):</b> September 1, 2016 <b>Revised:</b> January 1, 2017
Subject 5.1.7 – Prevention and Intervention	

## 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.

### Policies and procedures

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