U.S. Department of Justice Recommended AMBER Alert Criteria

1. Law enforcement officials have a reasonable belief that an abduction has occurred.
2. Law enforcement officials believe that the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.
3. Enough descriptive information exists about the victim and the abductor for law enforcement to issue an AMBER Alert.
4. The victim of the abduction is a child age 17 years or younger.
5. The child's name and other critical data elements—including the child abduction (CA) and AMBER Alert (AA) flags—have been entered into the **National Crime Information Center (NCIC)** system.

AMBER ALERT
America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response

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National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Entry Process and Criteria

Enter the information immediately—with NO delay. This includes information about the victim and/or perpetrator, vehicle used in the abduction, and other information that would help law enforcement apprehend the perpetrator and safely recover the child.

Use the proper NCIC category. Child abduction cases should be entered into the Missing Persons File in either the endangered or involuntary category, and the child abduction (CA) flag should be entered.

When an AMBER Alert (AA) is issued, the AA flag should be entered in the record. If the law enforcement agency or Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Systems Agency cannot set the flag, notify the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) immediately at 800–843–5678 or reporting agency ORI VA007019W or <mailto: amberalerts@ncmec.org>. NCMEC will contact the appropriate state AMBER Alert coordinator to approve updating the NCIC record with an AA flag.

Add the image of the child to the record when available. Also attach photos of vehicles, suspects, tattoos, and other potential identifiers. Care should be taken to ensure that the miscellaneous (MIS) field clearly states if the photo is of the perpetrator.

Regularly update information about the victim and suspect. Link records if suspect or vehicle information is entered into NCIC.