

# Naples City Police Department

## Code Veronica multi-jurisdictional Policy and Response Criteria

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**332.1 Definition:** (Child) For this policy a Code Veronica response will be activated and steps followed on all missing children up to the age of 13. This response will also be activated for children and adults whose mental capacity has only developed to the age of 13.

**332.2 Purpose and goal:** Child abductions, although rare, cannot be taken lightly in the first stages of the investigation. Typically when a child is declared abducted it is several hours from the initial call of the parent or guardian notifying authorities that child cannot be found. This policy not only puts into motion a detailed, organized and documented effort immediately, but also gives officers practice to perfect these procedures, investigative ideas and to achieve a joint multi-agency effort to eliminate mistakes or at least minimize them by joining forces and sharing resources for when the time comes a child is actually abducted.

**332.3 Agencies involved:** Naples City Police Department, Uintah County Sheriff's Office, Vernal City Police Department, Utah Highway Patrol, Adult Probation and Parole, Utah Department of Public Safety Vernal Consolidated Dispatch, Uintah Basin Animal Control.

**332.4 Operation:** When dispatch or any officer receives a complaint from a parent, guardian or a person in charge of a child that has not been seen for any amount of time but is being reported as missing or "can't find", dispatch or the officer receiving the report, will advise dispatch that a Code Veronica alert be issued and officers will respond accordingly.

**332.5** The dispatcher will acquire as much applicable information as instructed by dispatch policy and the criteria set up by the National Missing and Exploited Children pertaining to a missing child call. The dispatcher will send an alert tone over the main operational channel stating Code Veronica and giving the address followed by all relevant information such as clothing, time frame, circumstances etc.

