

# First Steps

### How do you report someone missing?

The police can be informed either on 999 or by calling your local police station. A missing person can be reported to the police at any time, you **do not** need to wait 24 hours before making a report.

You can also report someone missing to Missing People, either by phone on 116 000 or online by filling in the [form](#) on the Missing People website.

### Should you report someone missing?

A disappearance should be reported immediately if the person's safety is believed to be compromised. If not arriving at their place of work or study, or not returning home is out of character, the case should be referred to the police immediately.

If you are in doubt, always seek advice from the police.

### What information will you be asked to provide?

- All personal details known to you about the individual, including their full name, date of birth, home address and employment details.
- Any details relating to the disappearance; when you last had contact with the individual, what they were wearing when they disappeared, and any other details relating to possible reasons behind their disappearance.
- Any factors that might put the missing person at risk. These may include the fact that the missing person is a child or young person, has physical or mental health issues or has a drug or alcohol dependency.
- Police may ask for various personal items belonging to the missing person if they are left behind. This may include mobile phones, diaries and laptop computers.
- Police are also likely to want to visit the person's address to carry out a routine search.

For more information about dealing with the police, you can consult our guidance surrounding [Working with the Police](#)

First Published: December 2011. Updated: December 2015

For further information and guidance on the issues addressed in this guidance sheet, or for support relating to any aspect of someone going missing, call or text Missing People's free and confidential 24 hour helpline on **116 000** or email [116000@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:116000@missingpeople.org.uk)

Whilst this information has been provided in good faith, it should not be taken as legal advice. For information tailored to your circumstances, please contact your police force, solicitor or an advisory organisation as appropriate to your query.

Please let us know whether this guidance has been useful, either by answering a few short questions at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MissingPeopleGuidance> or by emailing your comments to [policyandresearch@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:policyandresearch@missingpeople.org.uk)