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**136th General Assembly**  
**Regular Session**  
**2025-2026**

**Sub. H. B. No. 217**

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To amend sections 2901.30, 2901.41, and 2901.42 and  
to enact section 109.5731 of the Revised Code to  
enact Andy Chapman's Act to require law  
enforcement agencies to enter information  
relating to a report of a missing person in the  
national missing and unidentified persons system  
(NamUs).

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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 2901.30, 2901.41, and 2901.42 be  
amended and section 109.5731 of the Revised Code be enacted to  
read as follows:

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**Sec. 109.5731.** The superintendent of the bureau of  
criminal identification and investigation shall establish and  
maintain digitalized records of missing persons and children  
reports.

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**Sec. 2901.30.** (A) As used in sections 2901.30 to 2901.32  
of the Revised Code:

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(1) "Information" means information that can be integrated  
into the computer system and that relates to the physical or

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mental description of a minor including, but not limited to, 19  
height, weight, color of hair and eyes, use of eyeglasses or 20  
contact lenses, skin coloring, physical or mental disabilities, 21  
special medical conditions or needs, abnormalities, problems, 22  
scars and marks, and distinguishing characteristics, and other 23  
information that could assist in identifying a minor including, 24  
but not limited to, full name and nickname, date and place of 25  
birth, age, names and addresses of parents and other relatives, 26  
fingerprints, dental records, photographs, social security 27  
number, driver's license number, credit card numbers, bank 28  
account numbers, and clothing. 29

(2) "Minor" means a person under eighteen years of age. 30

(3) "Missing children" or "missing child" means either of 31  
the following: 32

(a) A minor who has run away from or who otherwise is 33  
missing from the home of, or the care, custody, and control of, 34  
the minor's parents, parent who is the residential parent and 35  
legal custodian, guardian, legal custodian, or other person 36  
having responsibility for the care of the minor; 37

(b) A minor who is missing and about whom there is reason 38  
to believe the minor could be the victim of a violation of 39  
section 2905.01, 2905.02, 2905.03, or 2919.23 of the Revised 40  
Code or of a violation of section 2905.04 of the Revised Code as 41  
it existed prior to July 1, 1996. 42

(4) "NamUs" means the national missing and unidentified 43  
persons system created by the United States department of 44  
justice. 45

~~(B)~~ (5) "High-risk missing child" means a missing child who 46  
meets any of the following criteria: 47

<u>(a) The child is missing as a result of a confirmed</u>	48
<u>abduction.</u>	49
<u>(b) The child is missing under known dangerous</u>	50
<u>circumstances.</u>	51
<u>(c) The child is missing more than thirty days.</u>	52
<u>(d) There is evidence the child is at risk because of any</u>	53
<u>of the following factors:</u>	54
<u>(i) The missing child is in need of medical attention or</u>	55
<u>prescription medication, such that it will have a serious</u>	56
<u>adverse effect on the child's health if the needed care or</u>	57
<u>medication is not received.</u>	58
<u>(ii) The missing child does not have a pattern of running</u>	59
<u>away or disappearing.</u>	60
<u>(iii) The missing child may have been abducted by a</u>	61
<u>noncustodial parent.</u>	62
<u>(iv) The missing child is mentally impaired or</u>	63
<u>developmentally disabled.</u>	64
<u>(v) The missing child has been the subject of past threats</u>	65
<u>or acts of violence.</u>	66
<u>(vi) Any other factor that may indicate, in the judgment</u>	67
<u>of the lead investigating law enforcement agency, that the</u>	68
<u>missing child may be at risk.</u>	69
<u>(B) (1) When a law enforcement agency in this state that</u>	70
<u>has jurisdiction in the matter is informed that a minor is or</u>	71
<u>may be a missing child and that the person providing the</u>	72
<u>information wishes to file a missing child report, the law</u>	73
<u>enforcement agency shall take that report. Upon taking the</u>	74

report, the law enforcement agency shall take prompt action upon 75  
it, including, but not limited to, assessing if the missing 76  
child may be a high-risk missing child and concerted efforts to 77  
locate the missing child. No law enforcement agency in this 78  
state shall have a rule or policy that prohibits or discourages 79  
the filing of or the taking of action upon a missing child 80  
report, within a specified period following the discovery or 81  
formulation of a belief that a minor is or could be a missing 82  
child. 83

(2) (a) If a law enforcement agency has reason to believe 84  
that a missing child is a high-risk missing child, the agency 85  
shall contact the appropriate county prosecutor who shall 86  
determine whether the child reported missing is a high-risk 87  
missing child. If the prosecutor determines that the child is a 88  
high-risk missing child, there is a rebuttable presumption that 89  
the child is missing as a result of, or in association with, 90  
criminal activity, and the law enforcement agency may seek to 91  
obtain a search warrant for relevant records or data for the 92  
purposes of determining who has legal custody of the child, and 93  
for any record that may disclose an allegation of child abuse 94  
perpetrated against the child, or an allegation of domestic 95  
violence perpetrated against a member of the child's family. 96

(b) If a search reveals that a child reported missing is 97  
in the custody of the child's legal guardian or if substantiated 98  
allegations of child abuse against the child or any order 99  
protecting a family member from domestic violence exists, the 100  
law enforcement agency shall continue the criminal investigation 101  
without disclosing the whereabouts of the child or the child's 102  
guardian to the person who reported the child missing, unless 103  
the source of the report is a public children services agency. 104

(c) If the initial determination of a child reported 105  
missing does not warrant designation of that child as a high- 106  
risk missing child, it shall not preclude a later determination, 107  
based on further investigation or the discovery of additional 108  
information that the missing child is a high-risk missing child. 109

(d) If the investigating law enforcement agency discovers 110  
evidence during the investigation that indicates that the 111  
missing child does not meet the definition of a high-risk 112  
missing child, there is no rebuttable presumption that the child 113  
is missing as a result of, or in association with, criminal 114  
activity. 115

(C) If a missing child report is made to a law enforcement 116  
agency in this state that has jurisdiction in the matter, the 117  
law enforcement agency shall gather readily available 118  
information about the missing child and integrate it into the 119  
national crime information center computer ~~immediately~~ and NamUs 120  
if the missing child is not located within thirty days following 121  
the making of the report. The law enforcement agency shall make 122  
reasonable efforts to acquire additional information about the 123  
missing child following the transmittal of the initially 124  
available information, and promptly integrate any additional 125  
information acquired into such computer systems. 126

Whenever a law enforcement agency integrates information 127  
about a missing child into the national crime information center 128  
computer and NamUs, the law enforcement agency promptly shall 129  
notify the missing child's parents, parent who is the 130  
residential parent and legal custodian, guardian, or legal 131  
custodian, or any other person responsible for the care of the 132  
missing child, that it has so integrated the information. 133

The parents, parent who is the residential parent and 134

legal custodian, guardian, legal custodian, or other person 135  
responsible for the care of the missing child shall provide 136  
available information upon request, and may provide information 137  
voluntarily, to the law enforcement agency during the 138  
information gathering process. The law enforcement agency also 139  
may obtain available information about the missing child from 140  
other persons, subject to constitutional and statutory 141  
limitations. 142

(D) Upon the filing of a missing child report, the law 143  
enforcement agency involved may notify the public or nonpublic 144  
school in which the missing child is or was most recently 145  
enrolled, as ascertained by the agency, that the child is the 146  
subject of a missing child report and that the child's school 147  
records are to be marked in accordance with section 3313.672 of 148  
the Revised Code. 149

(E) Upon the filing of a missing child report, the law 150  
enforcement agency involved promptly shall make a reasonable 151  
attempt to notify other law enforcement agencies within its 152  
county and, if the agency has jurisdiction in a municipal 153  
corporation or township that borders another county, to notify 154  
the law enforcement agency for the municipal corporation or 155  
township in the other county with which it shares the border, 156  
that it has taken a missing child report and may be requesting 157  
assistance or cooperation in the case, and provide relevant 158  
information to the other law enforcement agencies. The agency 159  
may notify additional law enforcement agencies, or appropriate 160  
public children services agencies, about the case, request their 161  
assistance or cooperation in the case, and provide them with 162  
relevant information. 163

Upon request from a law enforcement agency, a public 164

children services agency shall grant the law enforcement agency 165  
access to all information concerning a missing child that the 166  
agency possesses that may be relevant to the law enforcement 167  
agency in investigating a missing child report concerning that 168  
child. The information obtained by the law enforcement agency 169  
shall be used only to further the investigation to locate the 170  
missing child. 171

(F) Upon request, law enforcement agencies in this state 172  
shall provide assistance to, and cooperate with, other law 173  
enforcement agencies in their investigation of missing child 174  
cases. The assistance and cooperation under this paragraph shall 175  
be pursuant to any terms agreed upon by the law enforcement 176  
agencies, which may include the provision of law enforcement 177  
services or the use of law enforcement equipment or the 178  
interchange of services and equipment among the cooperating law 179  
enforcement agencies. Chapter 2744. of the Revised Code, insofar 180  
as it applies to the operation of law enforcement agencies, 181  
shall apply to the cooperating political subdivisions and to the 182  
law enforcement agency employees when they are rendering 183  
services pursuant to this paragraph outside the territory of the 184  
political subdivision by which they are employed. Law 185  
enforcement agency employees rendering services outside the 186  
territory of the political subdivision in which they are 187  
employed, pursuant to this paragraph, shall be entitled to 188  
participate in any indemnity fund established by their employer 189  
to the same extent as if they were rendering service within the 190  
territory of their employing political subdivision. Those law 191  
enforcement agency employees also shall be entitled to all the 192  
rights and benefits of Chapter 4123. of the Revised Code to the 193  
same extent as if rendering services within the territory of 194  
their employing political subdivision. 195

The information in any missing child report made to a law 196  
enforcement agency shall be made available, upon request, to law 197  
enforcement personnel of this state, other states, and the 198  
federal government when the law enforcement personnel indicate 199  
that the request is to aid in identifying or locating a missing 200  
child or the possible identification of a deceased minor who, 201  
upon discovery, cannot be identified. 202

(G) When a missing child has not been located within 203  
thirty days after the date on which the missing child report 204  
pertaining to the child was filed with a law enforcement agency, 205  
that law enforcement agency shall request the missing child's 206  
parents, parent who is the residential parent and legal 207  
custodian, guardian, or legal custodian, or any other person 208  
responsible for the care of the missing child, to provide 209  
written consent for the law enforcement agency to contact the 210  
missing child's dentist and request the missing child's dental 211  
records. Upon receipt of such written consent, the dentist shall 212  
release a copy of the missing child's dental records to the law 213  
enforcement agency and shall provide and encode the records in 214  
such form as requested by the law enforcement agency. The law 215  
enforcement agency then shall integrate information in the 216  
records into the national crime information center computer and 217  
NamUs—in order to compare the records to those of unidentified 218  
deceased persons. This division does not prevent a law 219  
enforcement agency from seeking consent to obtain copies of a 220  
missing child's dental records, or prevent a missing child's 221  
parents, parent who is the residential parent and legal 222  
custodian, guardian, or legal custodian, or any other person 223  
responsible for the care of the missing child, from granting 224  
consent for the release of copies of the missing child's dental 225  
records to a law enforcement agency, at any time. A law 226



enforcement agency shall retain all reports of missing children 227  
in an electronic format prior to destruction of any paper 228  
reports and, upon conversion, shall promptly submit those 229  
reports to the bureau of criminal identification and 230  
investigation for purposes of section 109.5731 of the Revised 231  
Code. 232

(H) A missing child's parents, parent who is the 233  
residential parent and legal custodian, guardian, or legal 234  
custodian, or any other persons responsible for the care of a 235  
missing child, immediately shall notify the law enforcement 236  
agency with which they filed the missing child report whenever 237  
the child has returned to their home or to their care, custody, 238  
and control, has been released if the missing child was the 239  
victim of an offense listed in division (A) (3) (b) of this 240  
section, or otherwise has been located. Upon such notification 241  
or upon otherwise learning that a missing child has returned to 242  
the home of, or to the care, custody, and control of the missing 243  
child's parents, parent who is the residential parent and legal 244  
custodian, guardian, legal custodian, or other person 245  
responsible for the missing child's care, has been released if 246  
the missing child was the victim of an offense listed in 247  
division (A) (3) (b) of this section, or otherwise has been 248  
located, the law enforcement agency involved promptly shall 249  
integrate the fact that the minor no longer is a missing child 250  
into the national crime information center computer and into 251  
NamUs and shall inform any school that was notified under 252  
division (D) of this section that the minor is no longer a 253  
missing child. 254

**Sec. 2901.41.** (A) As used in this section and section 255  
2901.42 of the Revised Code, ~~"missing-:~~ 256

(1) "Missing person" means an individual who is eighteen 257  
years of age or older, whose temporary or permanent residence is 258  
in Ohio, and who meets one of the following characteristics: 259

~~(1)~~ (a) The individual has a physical or mental disability. 260

~~(2)~~ (b) The individual is missing under circumstances 261  
indicating that the individual's safety may be in danger. 262

~~(3)~~ (c) The individual is missing under circumstances 263  
indicating that the individual's disappearance was not 264  
voluntary. 265

(2) "NamUs" means the national missing and unidentified 266  
persons system created by the United States department of 267  
justice. 268

(3) "High-risk missing person" means an individual who is 269  
eighteen years of age or older whose whereabouts are not 270  
currently known and the circumstances of the individual's 271  
disappearance suggest that the person may be at imminent or 272  
likely risk of injury or death. The circumstances that indicate 273  
that an individual is a high-risk missing person shall include 274  
but not be limited to: 275

(a) The individual is missing as a result of a confirmed 276  
abduction. 277

(b) The individual is missing under known dangerous 278  
circumstances. 279

(c) The individual is missing more than thirty days. 280

(d) There is evidence the person is at risk because of any 281  
of the following factors: 282

(i) The missing individual is in need of medical attention 283

or prescription medication, such that it will have a serious 284  
adverse effect on the individual's health if the needed care or 285  
medication is not received. 286

(ii) The missing individual does not have a pattern of 287  
running away or disappearing. 288

(iii) The missing individual is mentally impaired or 289  
developmentally disabled. 290

(iv) The missing individual has been the subject of past 291  
threats or acts of violence. 292

(v) The missing individual is under twenty-one years of 293  
age and any of the factors listed in division (A) (3) (d) (i) to 294  
(iv) of this section exist. 295

(vi) Any other factor that may indicate, in the judgment 296  
of the lead investigating law enforcement agency, that the 297  
missing individual may be at risk. 298

(B) The attorney general shall publish and distribute to 299  
all law enforcement agencies in this state a best practices 300  
protocol for addressing reports of missing persons, including 301  
practices for making assessments of whether a missing person is 302  
a high-risk missing person. Each best practices protocol shall 303  
require all law enforcement agencies to enter information 304  
relating to a report of a missing person into NamUs if a missing 305  
person is not located within thirty days following the making of 306  
the report. Upon receipt of the best practices protocol from the 307  
attorney general, each law enforcement agency in this state 308  
shall develop and adopt a written policy establishing ~~reasonable~~ 309  
both of the following: 310

(1) Reasonable procedures to be followed by the law 311  
enforcement agency when the agency is informed that a person is 312

or may be a missing person; 313

(2) A procedure for retaining all reports of missing 314  
persons in an electronic format prior to the destruction of any 315  
paper reports and, upon conversion, for promptly submitting 316  
those electronic reports to the bureau of criminal 317  
identification and investigation for purposes of section 318  
109.5731 of the Revised Code. 319

(C) After a law enforcement agency adopts a written policy 320  
as required by division (B) of this section, the peace officers 321  
that are employed by that agency shall make a good faith effort 322  
to follow the procedures contained in the policy. 323

(D) The requirements of this section do not create a 324  
private cause of action for damages against the state or any law 325  
enforcement agency, political subdivision, peace officer, or 326  
other person who fails to comply with the requirements of this 327  
section. 328

(E) (1) If a law enforcement agency has reason to believe 329  
that an individual reported missing is a high-risk missing 330  
person, the agency shall contact the appropriate county 331  
prosecutor who shall determine whether the individual reported 332  
missing is a high-risk missing person. If the prosecutor 333  
determines that the individual is a high-risk missing person, 334  
there is a rebuttable presumption that the individual is missing 335  
as a result of, or in association with, criminal activity. This 336  
rebuttable presumption shall constitute probable cause for 337  
issuance of a search warrant under Chapter 2933. of the Revised 338  
Code during any resulting investigation. If the initial 339  
determination of an individual reported missing does not warrant 340  
designation of that individual as a high-risk missing person, it 341  
shall not preclude a later determination, based on further 342

investigation or the discovery of additional information that 343  
the missing individual is a high-risk missing person. 344

(2) If the investigating law enforcement agency discovers 345  
evidence during the investigation that indicates that the 346  
missing person does not meet the definition of a high-risk 347  
missing person, there is no rebuttable presumption that the 348  
person is missing as a result of, or in association with, 349  
criminal activity. 350

**Sec. 2901.42.** (A) If a law enforcement agency receives an 351  
initial report or receives additional information for the report 352  
that a person who is at least eighteen but less than twenty-one 353  
years of age is missing, the law enforcement agency shall ~~make~~ 354  
do both of the following: 355

(1) Make available through the national crime information 356  
center all information contained in the report immediately after 357  
the law enforcement agency receives the report or additional 358  
information. ~~;~~ 359

(2) Make available through NamUs information contained in 360  
the report if a missing person is not located within thirty days 361  
after the law enforcement agency receives the report or 362  
additional information. 363

(B) (1) If a law enforcement agency receives a report that 364  
a person who is twenty-one years of age or older is missing and 365  
if there is evidence that the person was a victim of foul play 366  
at the time the victim is reported missing, or is otherwise a 367  
high-risk missing person, the law enforcement agency shall make 368  
available through the national crime information center all 369  
information contained in the report not later than seven days 370  
after the law enforcement agency receives the report. If there 371

is no evidence that the person was a victim of foul play, the 372  
missing person is not a high-risk missing person, and no 373  
evidence to the contrary is received, the law enforcement agency 374  
shall make the information available through the national crime 375  
information center not later than thirty days after receiving 376  
the report that the person is missing. 377

(2) If a law enforcement agency receives a report that a 378  
person who is twenty-one years of age or older is missing and 379  
there is no evidence of foul play at the time the agency 380  
receives the report and if the agency discovers after the law 381  
enforcement agency receives the report but before the end of the 382  
seven-day period under division (B) (1) of this section evidence 383  
that the person who is missing was a victim of foul play, or the 384  
person who is missing is later determined to be a high-risk 385  
missing person, the law enforcement agency shall make available 386  
through the national crime information center all information 387  
contained in the report by the end of that seven-day period. If 388  
a law enforcement agency receives a report that a person who is 389  
twenty-one years of age or older is missing and there is no 390  
evidence of foul play at the time the agency receives the report 391  
and if the agency discovers after the end of the seven-day 392  
period under division (B) (1) of this section evidence that the 393  
person who is missing was a victim of foul play, or the person 394  
who is missing is later determined to be a high-risk missing 395  
person, the law enforcement agency shall make available through 396  
the national crime information center all information contained 397  
in the report not later than forty-eight hours after discovering 398  
the evidence that the person was a victim of foul play, or the 399  
person is determined to be a high-risk missing person. 400

(3) If a law enforcement agency receives a report that a 401  
person who is twenty-one years of age or older is missing, the 402

law enforcement agency shall make available through NamUs 403  
information contained in the report if the missing person is not 404  
located within thirty days after the law enforcement agency 405  
receives the report or additional information. 406

(C) If a law enforcement agency pursuant to divisions (A) 407  
and (B) of this section made available through the national 408  
crime information center and NamUs information contained in a 409  
report that a person is missing and the missing person is found, 410  
the agency shall promptly remove that information from the law 411  
enforcement automated data system and report to NamUs that the 412  
person has been found. 413

(D) A law enforcement agency shall retain every report of 414  
a missing person in an electronic format prior to destruction of 415  
any paper reports and, upon conversion, shall promptly submit 416  
each report to the bureau of criminal identification and 417  
investigation for purposes of section 109.5731 of the Revised 418  
Code. 419

(E) As used in this section, indicators that a person was 420  
a victim of "foul play" include, but are not limited to, 421  
evidence that the person's home or car is in disarray, evidence 422  
of a struggle between the person and another person, or evidence 423  
a law enforcement agency determines to be foul play through the 424  
written policy the law enforcement agency develops and adopts 425  
pursuant to division (B) of section 2901.41 of the Revised Code. 426

**Section 2.** That existing sections 2901.30, 2901.41, and 427  
2901.42 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 428

**Section 3.** This act shall be known as Andy Chapman's Act. 429