

FOREWORD

Whether we have been personally touched by the horrors of child abduction, read about it in the newspaper, or heard announcements on TV, we know instinctively that this is a devastating occurrence. By the same token, we have also shared in the joy of parent and child reunion. Yet even when the ending is a happy one, the event has irrevocably changed the lives of those whom it touched.

At such a time, we so often think of the parents of the abducted child, but, unquestionably, the sisters and brothers of that child have also had their lives turned upside down. This guide is for them. It is to let them know others have shared their plight and have survived. It is to let them know that others understand their fears and, nonetheless, have gone on to live productive lives. It is to let them know that others have cried but, eventually, have moved on to laugh again. The sisters and brothers of abducted children have written this guide for their counterparts throughout the country. These young authors wanted to tell those left-behind children who say, "What about me?," that they are not forgotten.

When the idea of this guide was presented to me, I recognized there were no resources available for the siblings of children who were abducted. After reading the guide, I knew that the writing was truly a labor of love. I am proud to know these young authors, and I am touched by the strength, courage, and wisdom they have demonstrated in the words on these pages.

My hope is that you, or someone you know, never needs this book. However, if abduction strikes someone you know and love, please take the time to read this book with them or for them. It may be a first step back on the path to positive emotional health.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Flores", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. Robert Flores
Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention