

Names, addresses, and phone numbers you want to keep.

**Who do you go to when you need someone to listen? In the past, you may have turned to your parents or brothers and sisters for support. They may not be able to help you right now, though, because—like you—they are trying to cope with the loss of your sibling. It's not that they are ignoring you or that they don't care. It's simply that they are coping in the best way they know how, and they may not have the energy right now to be good listeners.**

If that's the case, there are other people you can turn to for help and support. The people who may help the most are those who listen without giving advice, those who genuinely want to hear what you're going through, and those who do not make judgments about you or your family. They may not know exactly what you're going through—how could they?—but they care enough to listen to your thoughts and feelings. You trust them.

**Your parents are the first people to turn to, but if they can't listen, it's also a good idea to talk to:**

- Close friends.
- Someone facing similar circumstances.
- A trusted adult: a lifelong babysitter or family friend.
- A member of the clergy.
- A close relative.
- A school counselor, teacher, or coach who you know and trust.

The following resources provide information and support for families of missing children. Most of these resources target parents as their initial audience. You may want to share the following list with your parents or other concerned adults.

- The U.S. Department of Justice manages the AMBER Alert program, an early warning system to help find abducted children. To access the AMBER Alert Web site, visit [www.amberalert.gov](http://www.amberalert.gov).
- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) was established in 1984 to help prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation; find missing children; and assist victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and professionals. To access their resources, call NCMEC at 800-THE-LOST (800-843-5678) or visit their Web site at [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com).
- Every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Canada has a Missing Children Clearinghouse that provides support and assistance to families of missing children. You can find a listing of every state clearinghouse on the NCMEC Web site at

# WHERE TO FIND MORE HELP

**www.missingkids.org.** On the left side of the page, click on the tab for resources for parents and guardians.

- The Association of Missing and Exploited Children's Organizations is a membership organization of nonprofit local agencies in the U.S. and Canada that provides services to missing children's families. This includes help with poster and flyer development and dissemination, advocacy, aid to local law enforcement, and resource referrals. Visit their Web site at **www.amecoinc.org** or call 877-263-2620.
- Team H.O.P.E. (Help Offering Parents Empowerment) is a parent mentoring and support program for families of missing children. Made up of parent volunteers, Team H.O.P.E. provides mentoring services, counseling, and emotional support for both parents and other family members. Volunteers can be reached at 866-305-HOPE (4673).
- Take Root provides support and assistance to children abducted by a family member. Take Root can be reached at 800-ROOT-ORG or by visiting their Web site at **www.takeroot.org**.
- The National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) is a federally funded resource offering information to the public and juvenile justice practitioners. NCJRS is sponsored by a partnership of Federal agencies from the Department of Justice and the Executive Office of the President. It hosts one of the largest criminal and juvenile justice libraries and databases in the world. To access information from NCJRS, or to order or download copies of this guide, visit their Web site at **www.ncjrs.org**.

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