

8961

I N   A S S E M B L Y

March 4, 2014

---

Introduced by M. of A. SCARBOROUGH -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to reporting duties with  
respect to missing children and adults

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2     "Lamont Dottin's law".  
3     S 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 838-a to  
4     read as follows:  
5     S 838-A. PLANS FOR PROMPT AND UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR SEARCHING FOR  
6     MISSING PERSONS. 1. IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE  
7     AND OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCIES, THE DIVISION SHALL, ON OR BEFORE JANUARY  
8     FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN, ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT AND THEREAFTER REGULAR-  
9     LY UPDATE A UNIFORM PLAN FOR SEARCHING FOR MISSING PERSONS. SUCH PLAN  
10    SHALL INVOLVE A PRO-ACTIVE, COORDINATED RESPONSE, PLANNED IN ADVANCE,  
11    THAT IS TRIGGERED IMMEDIATELY UPON CONFIRMATION BY A POLICE OFFICER,  
12    PEACE OFFICER OR POLICE AGENCY OF A REPORT OF A MISSING PERSON.  
13    2. SUCH PLANS SHALL, AT THE MINIMUM, REQUIRE THAT:  
14    (A) THE NAME OF THE MISSING PERSON, A DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON AND  
15    OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION BE IMMEDIATELY DISPATCHED OVER THE POLICE  
16    COMMUNICATION SYSTEM TO LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL AGENCIES; AND  
17    (B) THERE SHALL BE NO PRESUMPTION THAT PERSONS BETWEEN THE AGES OF  
18    NINETEEN AND SIXTY-FOUR ARE NOT MISSING.  
19    3. POLICE AGENCIES NOT CONNECTED WITH THE BASIC POLICE COMMUNICATION  
20    SYSTEM IN USE IN SUCH JURISDICTION SHALL TRANSMIT SUCH INFORMATION TO  
21    THE NEAREST OR MOST CONVENIENT TELETYPEWRITER POINT, FROM WHICH POINT IT  
22    SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY DISPATCHED, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE ORDERS, RULES OR  
23    REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SYSTEM.  
24    4. NO DISPATCH OR TRANSMISSION OF A REPORT CONCERNING MISSING PERSONS  
25    SHALL BE REQUIRED BY SUCH PLAN IF THE INVESTIGATING POLICE DEPARTMENT  
26    DETERMINES THAT THE RELEASE OF SUCH INFORMATION WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE  
27    INVESTIGATION OR THE SAFETY OF THE PERSON, OR OTHERWISE REQUESTS  
28    FORBEARANCE.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD11680-01-3

1 S 3. Section 837-f of the executive law, as added by chapter 880 of  
2 the laws of 1986, subdivision 10-a as added by chapter 600 of the laws  
3 of 1997, subdivision 12 as amended by chapter 579 of the laws of 1997,  
4 subdivision 14 as amended by chapter 381 of the laws of 2004 and para-  
5 graph (c) of subdivision 14 as amended by chapter 348 of the laws of  
6 2005, is amended to read as follows:

7 S 837-f. Missing and exploited [children] PERSONS clearinghouse. There  
8 is hereby established within the division a missing and exploited [chil-  
9 dren] PERSONS clearinghouse to provide a comprehensive and coordinated  
10 approach to the tragic problems of missing and exploited children AND OF  
11 MISSING ADULTS. In addition to the activities of the statewide central  
12 register for missing [children] PERSONS, the commissioner shall be  
13 authorized to:

14 1. Plan and implement programs to ensure the most effective use of  
15 federal, state and local resources in the investigation of ALL missing  
16 and exploited [children] PEOPLE;

17 2. Exchange information and resources with other states, and within  
18 New York state, concerning missing and exploited children AND MISSING  
19 ADULTS;

20 3. Establish a case data base which will include nonidentifying infor-  
21 mation on reported MISSING children AND ADULTS and facts developed in  
22 the phases of a search, and analyze such data for the purposes of:  
23 assisting law enforcement in their current investigations of missing and  
24 exploited [children] PERSONS, developing prevention programs and  
25 increasing understanding of the nature and extent of the problem; and  
26 share the data and analysis on a regular basis with the National Center  
27 for Missing and Exploited Children;

28 4. Disseminate a directory of resources to assist in the locating of  
29 missing children AND ADULTS;

30 5. Cooperate with public and private schools and organizations to  
31 develop education and prevention programs concerning child safety for  
32 communities, parents and children;

33 6. Provide assistance in returning recovered children AND ADULTS who  
34 are located out-of-state;

35 7. By January first, nineteen hundred eighty-seven arrange for the  
36 development of a curriculum for the training of law enforcement person-  
37 nel investigating cases involving missing and exploited children AND BY  
38 JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN ARRANGE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A  
39 CURRICULUM FOR THE TRAINING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL INVESTIGATING  
40 CASES INVOLVING MISSING ADULTS;

41 8. Assist federal, state and local agencies in the investigation of  
42 cases involving missing and exploited children AND INVOLVING MISSING  
43 ADULTS;

44 9. Utilize available resources to duplicate photographs and posters of  
45 children AND ADULTS reported as missing by police and with consent of  
46 parents, guardians or others legally responsible, disseminate this  
47 information throughout the state;

48 10. Beginning on January first, nineteen hundred eighty-seven, dissem-  
49 inate, on a regular basis, a bulletin containing information on children  
50 in the missing children's register to the state education department  
51 which shall then forward such bulletin to every public and private  
52 school where parents, guardians or others legally responsible for such  
53 children have given consent;

54 10-a. (a) By November first, nineteen hundred ninety-seven prescribe  
55 general guidelines to enable the state legislature and state agencies to  
56 assist in the location and recovery of missing children AND BY NOVEMBER

FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN TO ASSIST IN THE LOCATION AND RECOVERY OF MISSING ADULTS. The guidelines shall provide information relating to:

(i) the form and manner in which materials and information pertaining to missing children AND MISSING ADULTS including but not limited to biographical data and pictures, sketches or other likenesses may be included in stationery, newsletters and other written or electronic printings;

(ii) appropriate sources from which such materials and information may be obtained;

(iii) the procedures by which such materials and information may be obtained; and

(iv) any other matter the clearinghouse considers appropriate.

(b) By January first, nineteen hundred ninety-eight arrange for the transmission of biographical information and pictures, sketches or other likenesses of missing children AND BY JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN OF MISSING ADULTS to state agencies, departments and the legislature to use in printings.

11. Operate a toll-free twenty-four hour hotline for the public to use to relay information concerning missing children AND MISSING ADULTS;

11-A. ALONG WITH THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND STATE AGENCIES, SHALL COMMUNICATE WITH THE FAMILIES OF MISSING PERSONS, ON A CONSISTENT BASIS, TO UPDATE THEM ON THE SEARCH FOR THE MISSING PERSONS;

12. Submit an annual report to the governor and legislature regarding the activities of the clearinghouse including statistical information involving reported cases of missing children AND OF MISSING ADULTS pursuant to section eight hundred thirty-seven-m of this article and a summary of the division's efforts with respect to the use of monies from the missing and exploited children clearinghouse fund created pursuant to section ninety-two-w of the state finance law; and

13. Take such other steps as necessary to assist in education, prevention, service provision and investigation of cases involving missing and exploited children AND MISSING ADULTS.

14. (a) In consultation with the division of state police and other appropriate agencies, develop, and regularly update and distribute, model missing [child] PERSON prompt response and notification plans, which shall be available for use, in their discretion, as appropriate, by local communities and law enforcement personnel. Such plans shall involve a pro-active, coordinated response, planned in advance, that may be promptly triggered by law enforcement personnel upon confirmation by a police officer, peace officer or police agency of a report of a missing child, as defined in subdivision one of section eight hundred thirty-seven-e of this article, OR ANY PERSON.

(b) Such plans shall, at a minimum, provide that:

(i) the name of such missing [child] PERSON, a description of the [child] PERSON and other pertinent information may be promptly dispatched over the police communication system, pursuant to subdivision three of section two hundred twenty-one of this chapter;

(ii) such information may be immediately provided orally, electronically or by facsimile transmission to one or more radio stations and other broadcast media outlets serving the community including, but not limited to, those which have voluntarily agreed, in advance, to promptly notify other such radio stations and other broadcast media outlets in like manner;

(iii) such information may be immediately provided by electronic mail message to one or more internet service providers and commercial mobile service providers serving the community including, but not limited to,

1 those which have voluntarily agreed, in advance, to promptly notify  
2 other such internet service providers in like manner;

3 (iv) participating radio stations and other participating broadcast  
4 media outlets serving the community may voluntarily agree to promptly  
5 broadcast a missing [child] PERSON alert providing pertinent details  
6 concerning the [child's] PERSON'S disappearance, breaking into regular  
7 programming where appropriate;

8 (v) participating internet service providers and commercial mobile  
9 service providers serving the community may voluntarily agree to prompt-  
10 ly provide by electronic mail message a missing [child] PERSON alert  
11 providing pertinent details concerning the [child's] PERSON'S disappear-  
12 ance;

13 (vi) police agencies not connected with the basic police communication  
14 system in use in such jurisdiction may transmit such information to the  
15 nearest or most convenient electronic entry point, from which point it  
16 may be promptly dispatched, in conformity with the orders, rules or  
17 regulations governing the system; and

18 (vii) no dispatch or transmission of a report concerning a missing  
19 [child] PERSON shall be required by such plan if the investigating  
20 police department advises, in its discretion, that the release of such  
21 information may jeopardize the investigation or the safety of the  
22 [child] PERSON, or requests forbearance for any reason.

23 (c) The commissioner shall also designate a unit within the division  
24 that shall assist law enforcement agencies and representatives of radio  
25 stations, broadcast media outlets, internet service providers and  
26 commercial mobile service providers in the design, implementation and  
27 improvement of missing [child] PERSON prompt response and notification  
28 plans. Such unit shall make ongoing outreach efforts to local govern-  
29 ment entities and local law enforcement agencies to assist such entities  
30 and agencies in the implementation and operation of such plans with the  
31 goal of implementing and operating such plans in every jurisdiction in  
32 New York state.

33 (d) The commissioner shall also maintain and make available to appro-  
34 priate state and local law enforcement agencies up-to-date information  
35 concerning technological advances that may assist in facilitating the  
36 recovery of missing children AND MISSING ADULTS. Such information shall  
37 include, but not be limited to, technology using computer assisted imag-  
38 ing to "age enhance" photographs of missing children AND MISSING ADULTS,  
39 and technology that may be used to enter such photographs and other  
40 pertinent information concerning missing children AND MISSING ADULTS  
41 into a database accessible to appropriate officials and persons.

42 S 4. Section 837-m of the executive law, as added by chapter 579 of  
43 the laws of 1997, is amended to read as follows:

44 S 837-m. Reporting duties [of law enforcement departments] with  
45 respect to missing [children] PERSONS. The chief of every police  
46 department, each county sheriff and the superintendent of state police,  
47 AS WELL AS EACH MORGUE IN THE STATE AND ALL PAUPER CEMETERIES, WHICH  
48 SHALL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN COMPUTERIZED DATA ON  
49 ALL IDENTIFIED AND NON-IDENTIFIED BODIES, shall report, at least semi-  
50 annually, to the division with respect to specified cases of missing  
51 [children] PERSONS that are closed AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON ALL UNIDEN-  
52 TIFIED BODIES. Such reports shall be in the form and manner prescribed  
53 by the division and shall contain such information as the division deems  
54 necessary including, but not limited to, information regarding recovered  
55 [children] PERSONS who were arrested, [children] PERSONS who were the  
56 victims of criminal activity or exploitation and [children] PERSONS who

1 were found deceased and information regarding the alleged abductor or  
2 killer of such [children] PERSONS.

3 POLICE DEPARTMENTS SHALL ESTABLISH A TRAINED MISSING PERSON SPECIALIST  
4 WHO WOULD: (I) IMMEDIATELY MEET WITH THE FAMILY OF ANY PERSON REPORTED  
5 MISSING;

6 (II) PROVIDE TRAINING FOR ALL OFFICERS WHO RECEIVE FEDERAL SPECIALIZED  
7 MISSING PERSONS TRAINING (REMAC); AND

8 (III) WORK IN CLOSE CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S MISSING PERSON  
9 UNIT.

10 S 5. This act shall take effect immediately, except that section two  
11 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2015, and provided further that  
12 the division of criminal justice services is immediately authorized and  
13 directed to take any and all actions necessary to assure the implementa-  
14 tion of the provisions of this act by such effective dates.