

# Georgia Department of Public Safety Policy Manual

<b>SUBJECT</b> <b>CHILD ABDUCTION RECOVERY TEAM</b> <b>(C.A.R.T.)</b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER</b> <b>25.10</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION</b> <b>ALL EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>DATE</b> <b>3/8/2010</b>

## 25.10.1 Purpose

The Child Abduction Response Team (C.A.R.T.) was created by an executive order signed by the Governor to provide an immediate and efficient response to missing, abducted, or endangered children in the State of Georgia. It is comprised of nine different state agencies, utilizing their resources and both sworn and non-sworn staff:

Georgia Bureau of Investigation	State Board of Pardons & Paroles
Georgia Department of Public Safety	Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice
Georgia Department of Natural Resources	Georgia Department of Corrections
Georgia Department of Human Services	Georgia Department of Transportation
Georgia Emergency Management Agency	

## 25.10.2 Policy

It is the policy of the Georgia Department of Public Safety to immediately and efficiently respond to a child abduction or otherwise missing or endangered child alert.

## 25.10.3 Procedures

- A. The activation criteria for C.A.R.T. are as follows:
1. The true (non-family) abduction of a minor child (under the age of 18); or
  2. The abduction of a minor child (under the age of 18) with endangerment circumstances. These circumstances must clearly be articulated to the C.A.R.T. Coordinator in order to activate the team members. The child's disappearance or abduction shall meet the endangerment criteria if the child's life or well-being is perceived to be at-risk (due to violence or health conditions), or if the identified parental abductor has a potential for violence and could endanger the child, or
  3. Any other abduction or missing child investigation that requires immediate response in order to protect the well-being of the child. All incidents at this level shall require the approval of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.
- B. Upon the request from the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the incident, confirmation that the activation criteria has been met and the C.A.R.T. response is necessary, GBI communication center will activate C.A.R.T. by notifying the nine C.A.R.T. liaisons.
- C. Upon C.A.R.T. activation, the DPS Liaison to C.A.R.T. will respond to the designated command post to coordinate the following efforts:

1. Notify Troop/Region Captain in affected area for law enforcement support:
    - a. DPS C.A.R.T. Liaison shall notify the Troop/Region Captain immediately upon activation.
  2. DPS Sworn Members for Community Canvass
    - a. Shall respond immediately, and arrive at the designated location as soon as possible.
    - b. These members will be pulled from within the affected area as needed.
    - c. Provide officer(s) for each intersection (1 and ½ mile radius of abduction) for roadblock community canvass. Dependent upon the lapsed time and available information, a decision will be made to determine if roadblocks are to be utilized. Roadblocks will be overseen by the DPS C.A.R.T. liaison for and/or Troop/Region Captain (or designee) for DPS. Roadblocks will be staffed by uniform law enforcement officers in marked cars. Information gathered will be documented on the Roadblock Canvass Form and submitted to the Lead Trackers system.
    - d. Provide members for concentrated patrols in known areas of missing child for recovery of suspects/vehicles.
  3. Security
    - a. Provide sworn members at the residence of the missing child or other locations needing security.
  4. DPS Sworn Members for Ground Search
    - a. Shall respond immediately, and arrive at the designated location as soon as possible.
    - b. DPS SWAT for ground search of known areas utilizing GPS and Compass equipment.
    - c. DPS Dive team for water search of known areas.
  5. Troop/Division On-Scene Commander
    - a. Shall be the Troop Commander or their designee.
    - b. Should respond immediately, and arrive at the Command Post as soon as possible to support recovery efforts.
  6. Communications
    - a. The DPS Interoperability Coordinator shall provide a mobile communications trailer to the designated C.A.R.T. Command Post. The DPS Interoperability Coordinator will act as the communication leader to the C.A.R.T. Liaisons to achieve a workable communication line between all nine agencies.
- D. The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety shall designate the Department's Liaison to C.A.R.T. and the Interoperability Coordinator.