

Success Story

October 1, 2002-West Palm Beach

A 10 year old female disappeared after last being seen at her school bus stop in the afternoon. An AMBER alert was requested by the local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction. A passerby who heard the Amber alert, noticed the child the next morning behind a store front three miles from her home.

Success Story

August 5, 2002 - Kissimmee, Florida

The grandmother noticed the back door to her home was open, and couldn't locate her 2-year-old grandchild. When she couldn't get in touch with other family members about the child's disappearance, she notified the local police. The Florida Amber Plan was activated, using the Tone alert.

A friend of the family heard the alert and contacted the child's father. The father contacted the grandmother to let her know the child was with him and in perfect health.

Success Story

July 25, 2002 - Lake Worth, Florida

By Lindsay Jones, Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Saturday, July 27, 2002

Almost 11 hours after a missing 10-year-old girl was found Thursday, sheriff's deputies arrested the 20-year-old man who left the Lake Worth beach with her. He was charged with sexual battery.

Luis Arroyo, 20, was arrested about 5 a.m. Friday after sheriff's deputies traced him to his father's apartment at 4611 S. Congress Ave. in Lake Worth, said Palm Beach County sheriff's spokesman Paul Miller. Arroyo, who told police he thought the girl was 14, has been charged with four felony counts of sexual battery on a child under 12, Miller said.

Miller said because the 10-year-old girl, who was at the beach with her parents and brother, willingly left with Arroyo, no kidnapping charges have been filed. Arroyo will make his first appearance in court today.

Arroyo, who is Puerto Rican and has been living in Lake Worth for a month, took the girl from the beach to his apartment, where they stayed for several hours, Miller said.

Soon after the girl went missing Thursday afternoon, Lake Worth police issued an Amber Plan alert. The Amber Plan uses television and radio stations' emergency alert systems to broadcast information on missing children believed to be in danger.

Arroyo reportedly saw the alert on television, and realizing that the girl he was with was 10, not 14, let her go, Miller said. Police received a 911 call from an Amoco station on the corner of Lantana Road and Congress Avenue, where Lake Worth police retrieved the girl, Lake Worth police spokeswoman Susan Wellborn said.

The victim and her family were in Florida on vacation and were staying with friends or family in Greenacres before returning to their Boston-area home Friday, Miller said.

Success Story

July 16, 2002 - Opa Locka, Florida

A 4-month old child was taken from her mother's arms at gunpoint by the ex-boyfriend. Amber Alert aided in involving media quickly that provided a substantial lead to investigators. Child was being passed between friends of the abductor, while the abductor fled. Child was recovered safely.

Success Story

February 12, 2002 - Lake County, Florida

Father forcibly abducted his two children from Lake County (attempting to get back at the mother) and threatened to do harm to the children. Father was tracked by cell phone usage to Okaloosa County the next day.

A tone alert was issued for the Okaloosa area and it is believed that alert forced father to go back to Lake County, where he was arrested. Leads came in from the alert that father and children were seen at a car wash painting the stolen red truck to black.

If you have any questions about the Florida AMBER Plan, please contact the FDLE/MEPIC at 1-888-356-4774.