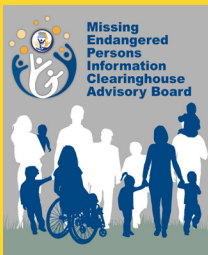


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Florida Missing Endangered Persons Information
Clearinghouse Advisory Board

**MISSING &
ENDANGERED**



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024 / ISSUE 11



WHAT IS THE Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board ?

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board (MEPICAB) was established in 1996 to address issues regarding Florida's missing children. It later expanded to include missing endangered adults and seniors. The MEPICAB's mission is to support awareness, education and training for the prevention, response and recovery of missing and endangered persons.

Board members represent a diverse group of law enforcement officials, government agencies, impacted families, non-profit organizations, private sector partners and community members interested in missing person matters. The MEPICAB works with the Florida Missing Children's Day Foundation (FMCDF) to present Florida Missing Children's Day which will be held Monday, September 9, 2024. For more information regarding MEPICAB, Florida Missing Children's Day or FMCDF, visit www.fmcdf.org.

Missing & Endangered





HELP

Someone
I Love is
Missing

File a Missing Person Report Locally

If someone you know goes missing, it is important to first contact your local police department, sheriff's office or 911.

Your local law enforcement agency will take the missing person information and details, file the missing person report, upload the information into the Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC)/National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and act as the primary investigative agency and contact for the missing person's loved ones. Florida does NOT have a requirement to wait a certain period of time (such as 24 or 48 hours as seen on TV) before filing a missing person report. If you are directed to wait a period of time

before law enforcement accepts the report, ask to talk to a supervisor for additional information.

The local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction of a missing person case will collect DNA, fingerprints or dental if needed, and may initiate the deployment of additional search resources to include bloodhounds, specialized equipment searches, aerial searches, or potential crime scene evidence collection. They may also offer family resources such as victim advocates, referrals to specialized services like therapy, tracking equipment for those with autism or dementia who are prone to wandering, or referrals to other agencies that have specific services related to your family and missing loved one.

The local law enforcement of jurisdiction is required to accept and file missing person reports and within two hours transmit the information to FCIC/NCIC. Once in FCIC/NCIC, any law enforcement agency that searches the missing person's information will see they have been reported missing. An active missing person report that has been filed and investigated by the local law enforcement agency does not mean the automatic issuance of an alert. FDLE issues all statewide Florida missing person alerts and has additional alert criteria for specific alert categories.

Our next newsletter will feature MEPIC. MEPIC acts as an assisting investigative resource for missing person cases to support local law enforcement efforts through issuing missing person alerts and continuing analytical work.





Missing Person Spotlight

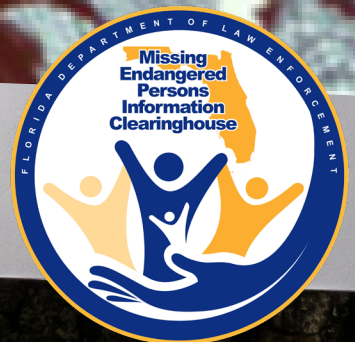
Marjorie was last seen around 3:00 P.M. wearing a turquoise bodysuit and barefoot walking to a grocery store in Greenacres City, Florida on May 27, 1984.

She never returned home and has not been seen since. Marjorie may also be known as “Christy”; her photo is shown age at age 8 and had been progressed to 41 years old. The case remains unsolved.

If you have any information about this case, please contact the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office at 561-688-3400 or the FDLE MEPIC Hotline at 1-888-FL MISSING

MISSING

Marjorie Christina Luna





Tribute to Claudine Ryce: Bloodhounds in Law Enforcement

By: Terri Lynn,
Co-Managing
Director of the
Jimmy Ryce Center
for Victims of Predatory
Abduction

Don and Claudine Ryce had successful careers, a beautiful family they adored, a great home and lots of outings with their children Ted, Martha, and Jimmy to look forward to. They had dreams and plans for the future. Then life kicked in on September 11, 1995, and the life Claudine knew ended forever. Their son, Jimmy, age 9, was abducted after getting off his school bus. His remains would be found 3 months later that December.

The Ryce's asked me to be their media coordinator in September 1995, weeks after their son, Jimmy, was abducted. John Lennon said that "Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans" and it is this event that

changed my life forever. I first met Claudine when we launched a petition drive for Jimmy at the Miami Seaquarium. Watching her that Saturday afternoon, in October of 1995, I was struck by the way people just gravitated toward her. They reached out to her, talked to her, bonded with her. "Aha," I said to myself. "She's not in this alone." People sensed her realness, her genuine goodness and love for her son. She led a massive search for Jimmy and for a time, Jimmy became "everyone's son."

Former FBI Agent, Bill Hagmaier, once remarked that most people who endured what Don and Claudine did would just curl up in bed and pull the blankets over their heads for the rest of their lives, but that was not Claudine's style. She was a survivor in every sense of the word.

She fought for her Jimmy.

She fought to have his picture on a milk carton.

She fought to have his picture on display in all federal buildings.

And even after Jimmy's remains were found, she dedicated her life to fighting for every child's safety. In 1996, President Clinton, issued an executive order requiring the posting of missing children's flyers and pictures through all federal buildings. Claudine stood in the Oval Office that day and said, "Jimmy's looking down," and "the American people care." That was only the beginning into her efforts in securing children's safety and transforming missing children laws, policies and procedures.

Tribute to Claudine Ryce
continues on next page



2023 FLORIDA ALERT STATISTICS IN REVIEW

- 8 AMBER Alerts Issued and 37% of the AMBER Alert recoveries were directly related to the issuance of the alert
- 58 Missing Child Alerts Issued
- 212 Silver Alerts Issued
- 202 Purple Alerts Issued

51 of the 480 missing person alerts, or approximately 11%, of all alert types were directly recovered safely due to the alert's issuance. A direct recovery is when the public has seen an alert and contacted law enforcement, or if law enforcement has recovered the missing person due to an issued BOLO.

Less than 1% of individuals that qualified for an alert in 2023 have not been located (3).

Tribute to Claudine Ryce

continues

Claudine's reputation and legacy have been linked to such lofty terms as champion, warrior, advocate, and crusader. Her glowing obituary in the Miami Herald called her an 'Indomitable spirit.' Claudine and her husband Don would work on multiple projects promoting child safety. Claudine was strong, she was brilliant, and she was beautiful. She was a woman who believed in her convictions, and she was unstoppable. She began the effort to place a bloodhound in every law enforcement agency and this mission continues today through the Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction.

According to Claudine, "A bloodhound has 60 times the scent power of a German shepherd and is the only dog that can follow a human trail more than a few hours old. A bloodhound is your best single bet for bringing a child, abducted by a predator, home, alive. We believe that Jimmy would be alive today if a bloodhound had immediately been brought in to search for our son."

The Ryce's dedicated their lives to making sure a bloodhound would be available to law enforcement for others that may go missing. The Jimmy Ryce Center is still working to keep children safe from predators and providing bloodhounds to law enforcement across the United States. For Claudine, providing a bloodhound to law enforcement to help locate missing persons was akin to winning the Powerball. For more information visit the [JimmyRyce.org](https://www.JimmyRyce.org) website.



Hope: Miramar's Newest K9 Bloodhound

In December of 2023, a bloodhound named Hope Ryce was donated to the Miramar Police Department from the Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction. The agency plans to use Hope's tracking abilities to find and bring missing persons home safely.

Did you know that bloodhounds are scent discriminatory and may be trained to locate individuals based on their specific scent? Bloodhounds are provided scent articles from missing persons and can follow that specific person's scent for multiple days. Bloodhounds successfully locate missing persons each year when they wander off into dangerous conditions, have autism, dementia or Alzheimer's disease and are at higher risk of harm, or may have another mental or emotional condition and seek to harm themselves. When someone goes missing it is important to immediately contact local law enforcement or 911 to report the incident. Directly communicating the missing person's mental or physical condition that places them at elevated risk alerts law enforcement of the immediate need for a search utilizing a bloodhound.

The center has free bloodhounds ready to be matched with law enforcement agencies. If your agency needs a bloodhound, complete the online application at <https://jimmyryce.org/application-for-membership/>. You may also contact the Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction by emailing Mark@JimmyRyce.org.



TAKE IT DOWN

Removing Child Sexual Abuse Material

Some juveniles unfortunately experience having their nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit photos and videos posted online. This can happen to anyone and is extremely frightening when you believe there are no options to remove them from the internet and are left with the aftermath. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), a child protection organization, has launched a program to combat this situation and move forward with hope. Take It Down is a free service that NCMEC provides for individuals to assist in removing or preventing an individual's explicit image or video from being shared on the internet when they were under the age of 18.

Are you under 18 and someone is threatening to post your nude, partially nude or sexually explicit image online or is it currently online? If this has happened to you, it is important to remember you are not alone and resources are available. Take It Down allows individuals to remain anonymous while using the program. Take it Down will ask you multiple questions such as your age in the photo/video and allows you to select the images on your personal device so they are not shared anywhere else. The image will be assigned a digital fingerprint which will be run across multiple internet platforms. The image itself will not be uploaded from your phone and only the fingerprint will upload to a secured list maintained by NCMEC. This list is then used to locate and tag images with the same fingerprint that are found online so they may be taken down.

In 2022 alone, NCMEC added 1.1 million hash values or digital fingerprints to their secured list and were able to take down pictures within an average time of less than 2 days. You may also locate additional resources by visiting [Resources for Child Sexual Exploitation Survivors](#). Resources such as emotional and peer support groups, content removal, therapists specializing in child sexual abuse material, and attorneys may be available through NCMEC.



MEPICAB Spotlight



The MEPICAB would like to express its gratitude to Dan Campbell for his service on the MEPICAB starting in 2004 and as Chairperson from 2019 to 2023. Mr. Campbell is an essential member to the board representing impacted missing person families and will continue his work with the board supporting child safety and missing person issues. Mr. Campbell is the parent of Wendy Hudakoc, a 14-year-old who went missing on November 15, 1998. He regularly attends Florida Missing Children's Day in remembrance of Wendy who has been missing over 25 years. Her family is still seeking answers to her disappearance.



The MEPICAB is excited to announce the new 2024 Chairperson. Chairperson Karen Mazzola currently serves as the representative of the Florida Parent Teacher Association (PTA) State Office and has been with the Board since 2019. The Florida PTA is the largest statewide volunteer association working exclusively on behalf of children and youth who provide resources and information to parents, educators, and elected officials.



The MEPICAB would like to announce the new Vice Chairperson Darry Lloyd. Vice Chairperson Lloyd recently joined the Board in 2022. He serves as the Chief Investigator and Public Information Officer at the Office of the State Attorney (SAO) 8th Circuit. The SAO's sworn personnel serve by locating witnesses in criminal cases, assisting prosecutors in preparation for trials, and assisting local law enforcement in criminal investigative issues. He is also responsible for making public statements and press releases and acts as the public liaison for community outreach. Chief Lloyd serves as the moderator for the Black On Black Crime Taskforce to help lead community discussions toward a resolution.