

CHAPTER 132**CHILD PROTECTION***S.I. 5/2016***CHILD PROTECTION (MARCO ALERT)
REGULATIONS**

(SECTION 148B(1))

[Commencement 27th January, 2016]

- 1.** These Regulations may be cited as the Child Protection (Marco Alert) Regulations. Citation.
- 2.** In these Regulations — Interpretation.
 “Act” means the Child Protection Act; Ch. 132.
 “alert” means a Marco Alert; and
 “partners” mean the media, public and private sector organisations that aid law enforcement in the goal of recovering missing children.
- 3.** Prior to the issuance of a “Marco Alert” and pursuant to section 148A(1)(b) of the Act, the Commissioner of Police shall in satisfying himself that a child is at risk of harm or death, confirm — Protocol for activating Marco Alerts.
- (a) that there is reasonable belief that a child is missing or has been abducted;
- (b) that the child is in danger of serious bodily injury or death; and
- (c) that there is descriptive information about the child that will assist in the recovery of the child.
- 4.** Where there is reasonable cause to believe that a child — Runaways, etc.
- (a) has been abducted by a parent; or
- (b) has runaway from his residential address,
- no alert shall be issued unless there is reasonable cause to believe that the child is in danger of serious bodily injury or death.
- 5.** Once it has been determined that the protocols for an alert has been met in accordance with regulation 3, the Commissioner of Police shall cause the Form provided for in the Schedule to be completed and issued without delay to partners. Activation of alerts.
Schedule.

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- Contents of alert. **6.** An alert shall state —
- (a) that there is reasonable belief that a child is missing or that an abduction has occurred;
 - (b) that the child is in danger of serious bodily injury or death;
- Schedule. (c) the information provided for in the Form in the Schedule, namely the description of —
- (i) the child;
 - (ii) the suspected abductor, if any;
 - (iii) the vehicle and license plate number of the suspected abductor, if available;
- Schedule. (d) the last known location of the child, if stated on the Form provided for in the Schedule; and
- (e) the telephone numbers to be contacted in the event that the child, suspected abductor or vehicle is seen.
- Broadcast or publication of alerts. **7.** (1) An alert shall be broadcast or published in accordance with section 148A(2) of the Act.
- (2) An alert issued by the Commissioner of Police shall be deemed the official alert for the purposes of these Regulations.
- Frequency and cessation of alerts. **8.** (1) Every partner in the alert process shall promptly —
- (a) in the case of a radio broadcast, air the alert at its time of issuance and subsequently at such times and frequency as the Minister determines;
 - (b) in the case of a television broadcast, televise the alert at its time of issuance and subsequently at such times and frequency as the Minister determines;
 - (c) in the case of a newspaper, publish the alert daily.
- (2) Pursuant to subsections (1)(a) and (b) all partners are encouraged to broadcast alerts at each news update.
- (3) Where a child is recovered, the police shall notify all partners of such recovery and any further broadcasts of the alert shall cease immediately.
- (4) In this section, “Minister” refers to the Minister responsible for telecommunications.

9. (1) Once an alert has been issued the name of the child and all other data in respect of a missing or abducted child included on the Form provided for in the Schedule shall be entered into the database of the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

Recording of
alerts.
Schedule.

(2) The Commissioner of Police shall from time to time report to the Minister responsible for National Security on the status of missing children.

10. Where a missing or abducted child in respect of whom an alert was issued is recovered —

Notification.

- (a) the Commissioner of Police shall cause the Director of Social Services to be immediately notified of the recovery of the child; and
- (b) the Director of Social Services shall ensure that the necessary care is provided to the recovered child.

SCHEDULE (Regulation 5)

MARCO ALERT FORM

THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HAS ISSUED A MARCO ALERT FOR-				
[] A MISSING CHILD, LAST SEEN AT (LOCATION):				
[] A CHILD THAT HAS BEEN ABDUCTED, THAT OCCURRED AT (LOCATION):				
AT (TIME):		AM	PM	ON THE (DATE):
CHILD'S NAME:		RACE:	SEX:	AGE:
HEIGHT:	WEIGHT:	HAIR:	EYES:	
PHYSICAL MARKS:		WEARING (CLOTHING):		
THE SUSPECT IS BELIEVED TO BE (NAME):		RACE:	SEX:	AGE:
HEIGHT:	WEIGHT:	HAIR:	EYES:	COMPLEXION:
PHYSICAL MARKS:		WEARING (CLOTHING):		
VEHICLE DESCRIPTION:	VEHICLE LICENCE NUMBER:	MAKE OF VEHICLE:	MODEL OF VEHICLE:	
ANYONE SEEING THE CHILD, SUSPECT, OR VEHICLE OR ANYONE HAVING ANY INFORMATION RELATED TO THE ABDUCTION SHOULD IMMEDIATELY DIAL 911 OR CONTACT THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.				
PLEASE STAY TUNED TO THIS STATION FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.				

Note: The information in this Form may be updated from time to time as necessary and redistributed.