

115-267, §2(a). See Amendment notes below. Text of section is based on amendments by Pub. L. 115-267.

Par. (1). Pub. L. 115-267, §2(a)(1), amended par. (1) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (1) read as follows: “each year thousands of children are abducted or removed from the control of a parent having legal custody without such parent’s consent, under circumstances which immediately place the child in grave danger;”.

Par. (4). Pub. L. 115-267, §2(a)(2)–(4), redesignated par. (6) as (4), inserted “, including child sex trafficking and sextortion” after “exploitation”, and struck out former par. (4) which read as follows: “in many cases, parents and local law enforcement officials have neither the resources nor the expertise to mount expanded search efforts;”.

Par. (5). Pub. L. 115-267, §2(a)(2), (3), redesignated par. (7) as (5) and struck out former par. (5) which read as follows: “abducted children are frequently moved from one locality to another, requiring the cooperation and coordination of local, State, and Federal law enforcement efforts;”.

Par. (6). Pub. L. 115-267, §2(a)(3), (5), redesignated par. (8) as (6) and inserted “and” at end. Former par. (6) redesignated (4).

Par. (7). Pub. L. 115-267, §2(a)(3), (6), redesignated par. (10) as (7) and amended it generally. Prior to amendment, text related to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Former par. (7) redesignated (5).

Pars. (8) to (10). Pub. L. 115-267, §2(a)(2), (3), redesignated pars. (8) and (10) as (6) and (7), respectively, and struck out par. (9) which read as follows: “the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention administers programs under this chapter through the Child Protection Division, including programs which prevent or address offenses committed against vulnerable children and which support missing children’s organizations; and”.

2013—Pub. L. 113-38 added par. (3) and redesignated former pars. (3) to (9) as (4) to (10), respectively.

2008—Pub. L. 110-240 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section consisted of pars. (1) to (5) stating findings of Congress concerning missing or abducted children and the role of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

2003—Pub. L. 108-96 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section consisted of pars. (1) to (21) stating findings of Congress.

1999—Pars. (9) to (21). Pub. L. 106-71 added pars. (9) to (21).

### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 115-267, §4, Oct. 11, 2018, 132 Stat. 3760, provided that:

“(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this Act [see section 1 of Pub. L. 115-267, set out as a Short Title of 2018 Amendment note under section 10101 of this title] and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 11, 2018].

“(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.—The amendments made by section 2 [enacting section 11295a of this title and amending this section and sections 11292 to 11294, 11296, and 11297 of this title] shall apply with respect to fiscal years that begin after September 30, 2018.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Subchapter effective Oct. 12, 1984, see section 670(a) of Pub. L. 98-473, set out as an Effective Date of 1984 Amendment note under section 11101 of this title.

#### SHORT TITLE

For short title of title IV of Pub. L. 93-415, which is classified to this subchapter, as the “Missing Children’s Assistance Act”, see section 401 of Pub. L. 93-415, set out as a Short Title of 1974 Act note under section 10101 of this title.

### § 11292. Definitions

For the purpose of this subchapter—

(1) the term “missing child” means any individual less than 18 years of age whose whereabouts are unknown to such individual’s parent;

(2) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention;

(3) the term “Center” means the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children;

(4) the term “parent” includes a legal guardian or other individual who may lawfully exercise parental rights with respect to the child; and

(5) the term “child sexual abuse material” has the meaning given the term “child pornography” in section 2256 of title 18;<sup>1</sup>

(Pub. L. 93-415, title IV, §403, as added Pub. L. 98-473, title II, §660, Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 2126; amended Pub. L. 106-71, §2(b), Oct. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1034; Pub. L. 109-248, title I, §154(b), July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 611; Pub. L. 109-295, title VI, §689b(c), Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1450; Pub. L. 115-267, §2(b), Oct. 11, 2018, 132 Stat. 3757; Pub. L. 115-393, title II, §202(b), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5268; Pub. L. 118-65, §2(a), June 17, 2024, 138 Stat. 1439.)

### Editorial Notes

#### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 5772 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section. Some section numbers or references in amendment notes below reflect the classification of such sections or references prior to editorial reclassification.

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 403 of Pub. L. 93-415 amended section 3883 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, and was repealed by Pub. L. 95-115, §10, Oct. 3, 1977, 91 Stat. 1061, and Pub. L. 107-273, div. C, title II, §12221(a)(4), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1894.

#### AMENDMENTS

2024—Par. (5). Pub. L. 118-65 added par. (5).

2018—Par. (1). Pub. L. 115-267, §2(b)(1), and Pub. L. 115-393, §202(b)(1), amended section identically, adding par. (1) and striking out former par. (1) which read as follows: “the term ‘missing child’ means any individual less than 18 years of age whose whereabouts are unknown to such individual’s legal custodian;”.

Par. (4). Pub. L. 115-267, §2(b)(2)–(4), and Pub. L. 115-393, §202(b)(2)–(4), amended section identically, adding par. (4).

2006—Par. (1). Pub. L. 109-295, which directed amendment of par. (1) by striking out “or” at the end of subpar. (A), inserting “or” after the semicolon in subpar. (B), and adding after subpar. (B) subpar. (C) “the individual is an individual under 21 years of age who is displaced from the habitual residence of that individual as a result of an emergency or major disaster (as those terms are defined in section 5122 of this title).”, could not be executed because of the prior amendment by Pub. L. 109-248, see below.

Pub. L. 109-248, which directed amendment of “Section 403(1) of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 5772)” by substituting a semicolon at end for “if—” through subpar. (B), was executed by substituting a semicolon for “if—” and subpars. (A) and (B)

<sup>1</sup> So in original. The semicolon probably should be a period.

of par. (1) of this section, which is section 403 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-415, as added by section 660 of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. Prior to amendment, subpars. (A) and (B) read as follows:

“(A) the circumstances surrounding such individual’s disappearance indicate that such individual may possibly have been removed by another from the control of such individual’s legal custodian without such custodian’s consent; or

“(B) the circumstances of the case strongly indicate that such individual is likely to be abused or sexually exploited;”.

1999—Par. (3). Pub. L. 106-71 added par. (3).

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-267 effective Oct. 11, 2018, and applicable to fiscal years beginning after Sept. 30, 2018, see section 4 of Pub. L. 115-267, set out as a note under section 11291 of this title.

### § 11293. Duties and functions of the Administrator

#### (a) Description of activities

The Administrator shall—

(1) issue such rules as the Administrator considers necessary or appropriate to carry out this subchapter;

(2) make such arrangements as may be necessary and appropriate to facilitate effective coordination among all federally funded programs relating to missing children (including the preparation of an annual comprehensive plan for facilitating such coordination);

(3) provide for the furnishing of information derived from the national toll-free hotline, established under subsection (b)(1), to appropriate entities;

(4) coordinate with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to ensure that homeless services professionals are aware of educational resources and assistance provided by the Center regarding child sexual exploitation;

(5) provide adequate staff and agency resources which are necessary to properly carry out the responsibilities pursuant to this subchapter; and

(6) not later than 180 days after the end of each fiscal year, submit a report to the President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate—

(A) containing a comprehensive plan for facilitating cooperation and coordination in the succeeding fiscal year among all agencies and organizations with responsibilities related to missing children;

(B) identifying and summarizing effective models of Federal, State, and local coordination and cooperation in locating and recovering missing children;

(C) identifying and summarizing effective program models that provide treatment, counseling, or other aid to parents of missing children or to children who have been the victims of abduction;

(D) describing how the Administrator satisfied the requirements of paragraph (4) in the preceding fiscal year;

(E) describing in detail the number and types of telephone calls received in the preceding fiscal year over the national toll-free hotline established under subsection (b)(1)(A), the number and types of communications referred to the national communications system established under section 11231 of this title, and the number and types of reports to the CyberTipline established under subsection (b)(1)(K)(i);

(F) describing in detail the activities in the preceding fiscal year of the national resource center and clearinghouse established under subsection (b)(2);

(G) describing all the programs for which assistance was provided under section 11294 of this title in the preceding fiscal year;

(H) summarizing the results of all research completed in the preceding year for which assistance was provided at any time under this subchapter; and

(I)(i) identifying each clearinghouse with respect to which assistance is provided under section 11294(a)(9) of this title in the preceding fiscal year;

(ii) describing the activities carried out by such clearinghouse in such fiscal year;

(iii) specifying the types and amounts of assistance (other than assistance under section 11294(a)(9) of this title) received by such clearinghouse in such fiscal year; and

(iv) specifying the number and types of missing children cases handled (and the number of such cases resolved) by such clearinghouse in such fiscal year and summarizing the circumstances of each such case.<sup>1</sup>

#### (b) Annual grant to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

##### (1) In general

The Administrator shall annually make a grant to the Center, which shall be used to—

(A)(i) operate a national 24-hour toll-free call center to which individuals may—

(I) report child sexual exploitation and the location of any missing child; and

(II) request information pertaining to procedures necessary to reunite such child with such child’s parent;

(ii) manage the AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution Program; and

(iii) coordinate the operation of such hotline with the operation of the national communications system referred to in part C of subchapter III;

(B) operate the official national resource center and information clearinghouse for missing and exploited children;

(C) provide to State and local governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, State and local educational agencies, and individuals, information regarding—

(i) free or low-cost legal, food, lodging, and transportation services that are avail-

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “case.”