

On **January 7, 2004**, a 14-year-old girl was abducted from her foster home by her non-custodial father. Investigators said the suspect was erroneously released from police custody in Missouri. He had warrants issued for assault and armed criminal actions with nationwide extradition. Due to pending sexual assault charges and supposed threats by the abductor to kill the girl and himself an AMBER alert was issued by the **Trotwood Police Department**. As a result of the AMBER Alert being issued, a tip provided by a radio listener prompted law enforcement officials to check motels along I-70, where he was apprehended just inside the Ohio state line.

On **March 6, 2004**, the **Cleveland Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a 2-year-old boy, who was abducted by his non-custodial father, who reportedly had a mental condition for which he took several psychiatric medications. He had been very violent and threatening over the past few months and had threatened to kill the child because he felt the child would not be happy living with his mother. The suspect was thought to be armed with a rifle. As a result of the AMBER Alert, the child was located with the help from a citizen and returned to his mother unharmed and the suspect arrested.

On **March 23, 2004**, the **Cleveland Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a 4-month-old baby boy. The baby was in a car seat in the back of the car. His mother parked the car in front of her grandfather's home and went to help her grandfather down the front porch steps to take him to a doctor's appointment. While out of the car, she noticed the suspect and tried to stop him as he approached the car and drove off with the baby. The suspect left the car and the baby at a shopping center, and then got on a Regional Transit Authority bus. Regional Transit Authority Detectives caught up with him and police arrested him. He then led them to where the baby was located. The suspect was in possession of crack cocaine when he was arrested. The baby was recovered safe within two hours of being reported missing.

On **April 21, 2004**, the **Wright Patterson Air Force Base Police** issued an AMBER Alert after a stepfather abducted his daughter. Allegedly, he was involved in a hit-skip accident. Thereafter, he made a phone call to the child's mother indicating that he was taking his the child to Cincinnati and that she would never see her daughter again. The child was recovered safe.

On **May 20, 2004**, the **Huber Heights Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a 10-year-old girl, abducted by her non-custodial mother. The suspect allegedly assaulted the girl's stepmother and forced her way through the front door, grabbed her daughter and fled the scene. The girl was recovered safe a short time later after the girl's father received a tip from a relative.

On **June 5, 2004**, the **Fulton County Sheriff's Office** issued an AMBER Alert for a 3-year-old boy abducted by a boyfriend of the child's mother. The child was believed to be in danger, as the suspect was a known crack user. The child was recovered safe.

On **June 18, 2004**, the **Fairfield Township Police** issued an AMBER Alert for a 6-year-old boy. Local media was then contacted to broadcast the AMBER Alert message as the non-custodial

father raped the child's mother and took the child from his mother's home. The suspect was found a short time later at his home and was arrested. The boy was recovered safe.

On **June 23, 2004**, the **Hancock County Sheriff's Office** issued an AMBER Alert for a 7-year-old girl, who was abducted by her father. Deputies were extremely worried about the incident because the suspect was said to have mental problems and had been saying he planned to take his daughter with him to heaven. He was pulled over in his car and the child was recovered safe in the vehicle with him.

On **June 29, 2004**, the **Cleveland Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a two-year-old boy who was taken by his 14-year-old aunt. She took the family car without permission and was considered endangered, as she was not licensed to drive and there was no car seat or diapers in the car. Police apprehended her later that day. The child was recovered unharmed.

On **July 3, 2004**, the **Northwood Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a 7-year-old boy, who went missing. His parents reported him missing about 7 p.m. A child fitting his description was spotted walking around 9:00 p.m. Police located him shortly after 10 p.m. The boy was considered endangered based on his age, lack of shoes and shirt and that nightfall was approaching.

On **July 14, 2004**, the **Cleveland Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a 5-month-old girl, when the baby sitter/family friend did not return home with the baby as promised. The baby had a severe asthmatic condition and needed the aid of a special breathing machine four times a day. She allegedly planned to keep the baby to replace a child that had died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. The FBI, U.S. Marshals, and police arrested her after a tipster told them that she had relatives in the area. She was found there in a car with the baby that same night.

On **July 20, 2004**, the **Columbus Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a five-year-old boy, after he and his mother were forcefully abducted. This happened shortly after the suspect committed homicide on his wife's friend for interfering in a domestic dispute between him and wife. Responding to a tip, the police found them at a relative's home.

On **July 26, 2004**, the **Miamisburg Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for these four children, ages 1 year, 4 years, 6 years, and 10-years-old, respectively. The children were abducted by their step-grandfather, who was recently released from jail for child molestation. It was reported that the suspect had a weapon. Paul Bursey, a concerned citizen, saw the AMBER Alert freeway sign as he drove and spotted the car in front of his matched the description. His 911 call resulted in the suspect's arrest. The four children were recovered unharmed.

On **August 5, 2004**, a **Shelby County Sheriff's Office** issued an AMBER Alert for a 15-year-old boy, who was forcibly abducted from his grandmother's home by his cousin, who was a bi-

polar, off his medication and had a history of violence and child endangerment. After the alert had been issued, a resident, Dan Ellis, spotted the stolen car matching the description and called the police. The car refused to pull over and gave chase. The suspect was finally stopped on an entrance ramp of where stop sticks punctured one of its tires causing him to lose control and crash the car into a ditch. The suspect tried to escape; officers used a Taser to subdue him and took him into custody at 11:30 a.m. He was taken to a hospital and then to jail. The child was recovered safe.

On **August 17, 2004**, the **Riverside Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a 6-year-old girl, who was abducted from her home by her mother's boyfriend. The child's mother told police that the suspect had taken her car and the child following a fight. The suspect returned the child to her house and left, later telling the mother he had gone to Kentucky for a construction job and had not realized that the child was reported missing. The woman told police that she was concerned for the child's safety around the suspect's family. He later turned himself in to the police.

On **September 7, 2004**, the **Amherst Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a 15-year-old girl. While walking to school, she was allegedly forced to get into a white van by three suspects. She was then taken to her house so she could pick up clothes and hygiene items. While there, she left a note for her mother saying she was being forced to go and pleading for help. She also left a frantic message on her half-sister's cell phone asking for help. A tip from the neighbor led police to believe that they were headed to Flatwoods or Replete, West Virginia. The neighbor was also able to describe the vehicle. As a result of hearing of the AMBER Alert broadcast on the radio, Douglas Huffnagel of Brunswick, Ohio, spotted the car on US 50 and called the police. The suspects were arrested in West Virginia, on charges of kidnapping, custodial interference and WV fugitive charges.

On **September 10, 2004** at 3:00 a.m., the **Lakewood Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a two and one half-year-old boy. On September 9, 2004, the child had been left in the care of his babysitter who did not return the child to his parents as agreed upon. According to the suspect, while trying to return the child, she supposedly had car trouble and lost her battery charge in her cellular phone and could not make contact. The child was recovered safe the morning of September 10, 2004, after police spotted the suspect. The suspect was charged with interfering with custody and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On **October 2, 2004**, the **Miami County 911 Center** issued an AMBER Alert for a two-year-old girl. She was abducted by her two babysitters, in which one was a known crack user. Suspects were possibly in route to the Cedar Point area or Kentucky. The child was recovered safe later that afternoon.

On **October 6, 2004**, the **Champaign County Sheriff's Office** issued an AMBER Alert for an eleven-year-old boy. On October 5th, his non-custodial mother reportedly abducted him from his father's home. She had made homicidal and suicidal remarks and said that the boy could be

in danger. Authorities received a tip that the pair was in South Carolina and were able to trace a cellular phone call made from the vehicle in which they were riding. During this call, she supposedly stated that the child would never be found if the alert was not stopped. Authorities spotted the car, pulled it over and recovered the child unharmed. She was taken into custody and charged with interference with custody.

On **October 15, 2004**, the **Columbus Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a ten-month-old baby boy. The child, his mother, and her boyfriend were at home when an argument ensued and boyfriend supposedly took the baby at gunpoint. He supposedly called the baby's mother and said that if she sent him \$1,600 she could have the baby back. He was believed to be heading to Kentucky, West Virginia or Mississippi and considered armed and dangerous. He dropped the baby off to the baby's caretaker earlier in the day. Later that afternoon, the caretaker heard of the AMBER Alert and took the baby to the police station.

On **October 23, 2004**, the **Wauseon Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a four-year-old boy, who was abducted by the child's mother's boyfriend. He was believed to be under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The child was recovered safe and unharmed a short time later.

On **November 1, 2004**, just after midnight, the **North Olmsted Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a 14-month-old boy, who was abducted by his despondent father. He was recovered alive a short time later.

On **November 14, 2004**, around 1:40 a.m., the **Springfield Township Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a 19-month-old boy, who was abducted from his grandparents' home by his non-custodial mother. Reportedly, she did not have custody of her son because she had bipolar disorder. An alert resident spotted them. Cincinnati and Springfield Township Police located them Sunday afternoon near the 500 block of Hale Avenue in Avondale while they were following up on some leads.

On **December 6, 2004**, the **Springfield Township Police Department** issued an AMBER Alert for a 1 year old girl. The child was last seen at 12:10 p.m. on 12/05/2004 with her grandmother. The suspect had taken the child with the mother's permission to meet family members in Lincoln Heights and failed to show up at the designated location. Information received from the family by police indicated that the suspect had a history of substance abuse and may be under the influence of illegal substances. Emergency Alert System was activated locally. Grandmother returned and the alert was cancelled. No further mention of child.