

Free High Tech ID's Help Police With Kids

Many parents in Michiana say the story of two abducted boys in Missouri makes them uneasy.

In light of that, the Optimist Club provided free ID's to many in Michiana.

This new technology helps police go beyond just a missing children's poster.

Ami Pitt wants to protect her daughter. Pitt says, "I told my husband, if anything ever happened to my child he would just have to knock me out."

Pitt says just the thought of someone kidnapping her daughter makes her cry. As a criminal justice major, it's something she thinks about a lot.

Pitt adds, "She's my baby and I love her and I'm going to do anything I can to protect her."

Pitt joined a dozen other parents in Kosciusko County on Thursday. New technology was introduced, called Safe Assured ID to better identify their kids.

Pitt says, "We can't say what if, what if... we have to change it now."

Safe Assured ID's Development Coordinator, Tim Hofer says, "We all think it's never going to happen and we hope it never does."

Roughly 2,000 children are abducted every day. If a child is murdered, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children says they're killed within 3 hours.

For officers, every second counts.

Kosciusko County Sheriff Rocky Goshert says, "The quicker we can get this information out, the better the chances are of locating the child."

Experts use video cameras and instruct kids to walk from spot to spot, asking their favorite color and dog's name, something to capture the way they walk and talk.

Hofer says, "If a child goes missing a law enforcement officer is able to see the child walking."

Within 10 minutes, Ami's daughter gets digital fingerprints, photo and streaming video.

All the information is encrypted onto a mini-CD that fits into the palm of your hand.

It also has personal information like addresses and physical descriptions of scars or marks.

For added safety and privacy, experts shred all personal information and erase records from their computers.

The only copy left is the one in Ami's hands.

Pitt says, "I want her to have security and go out in the world as a strong person but I want her to be aware and smart."

You can find more information at <http://www.warsawoptimist.org>

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