

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

NATIONAL ASHANTI ALERT NETWORK

History

On December 31, 2018, President Trump signed into law the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018 (Pub L. 115-401). The Ashanti Alert Act, named in honor of Ashanti Billie who was abducted and killed in 2017, establishes a voluntary nationwide communication network to aid in the search and recovery of missing persons between the ages of 18 and 64.

The Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance has established the National Ashanti Alert Network to encourage, enhance, and integrate Ashanti Alert plans throughout the United States.

Ashanti Alerts

Ashanti Alerts provide for rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, media and the public about adults who have been reported missing along with suspect information in cases of suspected abduction. Ashanti Alerts can be transmitted via wireless devices and through the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

Ashanti Alert Activation Criteria

Ashanti Alerts may be issued when an adult between the ages of 18 and 64 has been identified as a missing individual; and,

- suffers from a proven mental or physical disability; or
- missing under circumstances that indicate that the physical safety of the missing adult may be endangered; or
- that the disappearance of the missing adult may not have been voluntary, including an abduction or kidnapping.



Ashanti Alert Resources

The Bureau of Justice Assistance provides resources and technical assistance to states, Indian Tribes, local governments, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders seeking to establish or enhance an existing Ashanti Alert plan.

For more information, visit the National Ashanti Alert Network section of the BJA website at <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/national-ashanti-alert-network/overview> or email BJA at <https://bja.ojp.gov/askbja>.

Other Alerting Resources

AMBER Alert

<https://amberalert.ojp.gov>

Federal Emergency Management Agency Integrated Public Alerting and Warning System (IPAWS)

<https://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system>

Federal Communications Commission Emergency Alert System (EAS)

<https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-alert-system>