

Kansas Purple Alert Protocol

The Purpose of the Kansas Purple Alert Protocol

The Kansas Purple Alert Protocol creates a voluntary process for coordinating efforts between law enforcement agencies, media outlets and other entities when a person is reported missing by family members or caregivers, is 18 years of age or older, who has been diagnosed with an intellectual disability and is believed to be unable to return to safety without assistance. The Kansas Purple Alert Protocol provides guidance for law enforcement agencies and media outlets for alerting the public when an at-risk adult is reported missing.

Criteria for Using the Kansas Purple Alert Protocol

The Kansas Purple Alert Protocol is intended to assist law enforcement in locating certain missing persons meeting the following criteria. The Kansas Purple Alert Protocol does not limit law enforcement from the use of the same public notification resources in missing person cases not meeting these criteria. However, the term “Purple Alert” must not be used by law enforcement or the media in requesting public assistance in locating a missing adult unless law enforcement believes all of the following six criteria are met.

- 1. The person is 18 years of age or older;*
- 2. The person has been diagnosed with an intellectual disability;*
- 3. The person’s whereabouts are unknown;*
- 4. The person is believed to be in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death because of their disability;*
- 5. The person is believed to be unable to return to safety without assistance; and*
- 6. The investigating officer determines it is appropriate to request public assistance in locating the individual.*

Care should be taken to be reasonably certain the person reporting the missing person is not using the system to locate another for reasons other than to assure their safety. For example, some people may attempt to use the system to find an adult who has voluntarily and knowingly chosen to go elsewhere away from the complainant or a domestic abuser may use the system to attempt to find their spouse or partner.

Officer(s) should be aware a missing adult has the right to self-determination and the missing person or their family may object to public release of medical or other personal information. The goal of law enforcement must be the safety of the missing person based on all known facts and existing circumstances and conditions.

Activation and Implementation of a Kansas Purple Alert

The activation and implementation of a Kansas Purple Alert is a local decision based on the above criteria and is implemented locally by the law enforcement agency investigating the report.

When a decision is made to issue a Purple Alert, it is the responsibility of local law enforcement to notify the media and other resources that may assist in locating the missing person. If information is known to reasonably indicate the missing person has left the local area of the report, the investigating officer(s) will need to determine what nonlocal resources are appropriate and make the necessary notifications. In the event that a statewide search is necessary, the officer will notify the KBI IT Service Desk at (785) 296-8262. After calling, details about the alert incident can be emailed to ServiceDesk@kbi.ks.gov.

If a Purple Alert is issued, even at a local level, the incident must be reported by law enforcement immediately to the Office of the Attorney General by e-mail to: purplealert@ag.ks.gov.

A report of the incident must be submitted to the Office of the Attorney General on the following business day. This can be delivered by phone at (785) 296-6795, by fax at (785) 296-6795, or by e-mail to: purplealert@ag.ks.gov. For the purposes of this protocol, the business day begins at 8 AM and ends at 5 PM, Monday through Friday,

Deactivation of a Kansas Purple Alert

It is the responsibility of the initiating agency to deactivate a Kansas Purple Alert as soon as possible after the missing person is located. This will include contacting media and any other public outlet requested to assist. The initiating agency shall provide notification to the Office of the Attorney General that the alert has been deactivated by e-mail to: purplealert@ag.ks.gov.

KANSAS RWRNG ALERT MEDIA GUIDE

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