



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Statement: AMBER Alert Criteria- Wichita Missing Newborn

The KBI, the Kansas law enforcement community, and the public are all extremely concerned for the welfare of the missing newborn, Sofia Victoria Gonzalez Abarca, after the tragic crime which occurred yesterday in Wichita.

The Wichita Police Department (WPD) is working diligently to develop any leads in this investigation, and the KBI is ready to assist the WPD in any way possible, as information emerges.

The AMBER Alert system is a program that was developed in association with law enforcement, media, and other relevant stakeholders to issue timely and accurate information quickly and through many platforms to aid in the safe return of an abducted child. For the program to work as intended, adequate and accurate information must be available to provide to the public.

The Department of Justice guides the criteria used for issuing AMBER Alerts. The criteria which must be met for every AMBER Alert in Kansas are:

1. There has been a child abduction
2. The abducted child is 17 years of age or younger, or an individual with a mental or physical disability
3. There is reason to believe the victim is in imminent danger, serious bodily injury or death
4. There is sufficient information to disseminate to the general public which could assist in the safe recovery of the victim and/or the apprehension of a suspect

The KBI strongly encourages the use of the AMBER Alert system whenever these circumstances exist. In the incident yesterday, it was determined, in collaboration with the WPD, that there was not adequate information to share with the public that could aid Kansans in helping to locate the missing infant. During early efforts, a vehicle of interest to the investigation was sought, but there was not sufficient evidence to support that the vehicle's owner was a suspect.

It is extremely important for any information released under an AMBER Alert to be accurate. Broadcasting inaccurate information in the event of a child abduction can do more harm than good, and these decisions are made in each event with a great deal of collaboration and care.

The KBI respectfully requests that the media and public focus on locating and returning Sofia Victoria Gonzalez Abarca safely to her family.