



**OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM
STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

The children of Texas are our most precious resource. Each year, more than 800,000 young people in the United States run away from home or are reported missing or kidnapped. To locate these boys and girls, authorities rely on any descriptive information they can gather.

Although children's physical appearance can easily be altered, their fingerprints remain a permanent identifying mark. By having such information readily available, law enforcement and other relevant agencies can increase the odds of finding missing young people. Currently, less than two percent of parents keep updated information, including fingerprints, about their children. By increasing that number, authorities have a better chance at finding missing youngsters and reuniting them with their families.

Dozens of concerned individuals and organizations throughout the state and country are working together to raise awareness on the importance of families having current identifying information on their children. These concerned citizens have designated March as "Child Identification Month" to focus public attention on ways of protecting young people from harm. They are providing each boy and girl in public schools with an identification kit. With more than four million youngsters in kindergarten through high school, maintaining these kits will affect the lives of countless residents in the Lone Star State.

I urge all Texans to join in this effort that will help prevent and locate missing, kidnapped or runaway youngsters. By maintaining updated information on their children, parents play an important role in keeping their families from harm.


Therefore, I, George W. Bush, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim March 2000,

Child Identification Month



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this
17th day of December, 1999.


Governor of Texas