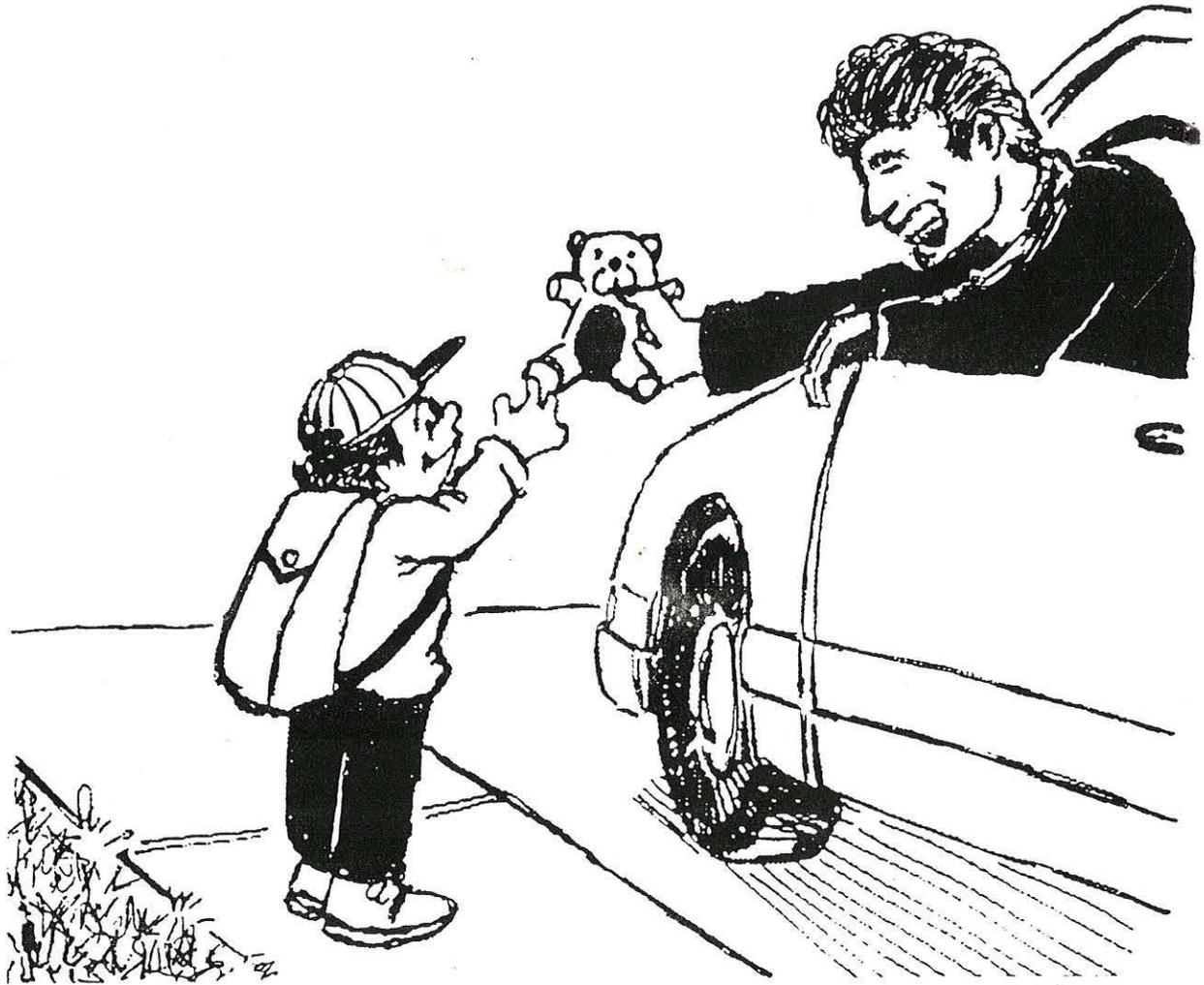


# ***STREET SAFE KIDS***

*Protecting children from sexual predators – a street-proofing manual*



*“Street Safe Kids is one of the most comprehensive self-defense and street-proofing courses available. We strongly recommend that parents enroll their children in this ‘hands-on’ program.”*

*Mabyn Armstrong, director of prevention*  
**The Missing Children’s Network Canada**

**George J. Manoli**

## *Child Molesters Who Abduct*

Abduction can generally be defined as not only forcibly moving someone from point 'A' to a secondary crime scene, but it can also be defined as preventing that someone from returning to a designated location at a specified time (e.g., child goes with offender voluntarily with parental knowledge but fails to return at a designated time). The vast majority of sexually motivated child abductors release their victims alive and sometimes even return them to the vicinity of their homes.

"NISMART, the *National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrown Away Children* estimates the number of stereotypical child abductions in the United States at between 200 and 300 a year (approximately 70 cases annually reported in Canada) and the number of stranger abduction homicides of children at between 43 and 147 a year. Approximately half of the abducted children are teenagers.....NISMART also estimates that two-thirds or more of the short-term abductions involved sexual assault. Teenagers (50 percent) and girls (75 percent) were the most common victims of non-family abduction." (*Child Molesters Who Abduct*, NCMEC, March 1995).

Child molesters who abduct their victims are significantly associated with low social competence (e.g., poor social skills, multiple jobs, failed relationships, less likely to be married, etc.). They show evidence of sexual inadequacies (e.g., nuisance sex offenses, failed assaults on women and children, Peeping Toms, etc.) and deviant sexual behaviors in addition to child molestation (e.g., exhibitionism, voyeurism, fetishism, etc.).

Abductors are most likely to be individuals who have been sexually victimized during their childhood or adolescent years. They are generally classified as having had little contact with children. They rarely abduct relatives and they generally target strangers with whom they have had little or no personal relationship outside of their offenses.

Due to their poor social skills and lack of familiarity with children, these abductors are more likely to use abduction (forceful methods) as a means of luring or controlling the targeted child rather than depending on interpersonal ploys or verbal persuasion (e.g., seduce, verbally entice, trick or coerce the child).

"The abducting offender is less likely to view the child as an interpersonal, 'love' object and his interaction with the child is likely to be superficial, minimally empathetic, and more prone to injurious behavior." (*Child Molesters Who Abduct*, NCMEC, March 1995).

## Child molesters who abduct

---

When compared to non-abductors, abductors seem to have a greater inclination in carrying or using weapons when committing their horrendous crimes (3 times as likely than non-abductors). Weapons are generally used to intimidate their victims and control their behavior, but not to injure the targeted prey. In addition, abductors were about 7 times more likely to use restraints on their victims than non-abductors. Sadism (sexual satisfaction by the infliction of pain), but not physical injury to the victim was tentatively related to abduction.

"Abductors were more likely to have and use a weapon when sadism was absent, but once sadism was present, the carrying and use of a weapon was more likely for both abducting and non-abducting offenders.....Among sadists, whether abductors or non-abductors, the weapon may have been more intricately involved in the offender's sadistic fantasies or used to induce fear, and not simply used as a device to gain the child's compliance." (Child Molesters Who Abduct, NCMEC, 95).

The motives for a non-family abduction and molestation can be divided into 6 broad categories:

1. **Non-traditional** : This type of abduction may include such things as women who kidnap newborn babies from hospitals or very young children. Most often stealing them to fill an emotional need in the offender's life, to preserve a relationship with a man, or fulfill a need to mother if they cannot have children of their own.
2. **Profit** : This underground network steals and abducts children because they know the child has a monetary value and they can obtain a financial benefit from some third party who is desperate for a child.



"Most for-profit trafficking in children involves buying (not abducting) children from parents or legal guardians. Cases involving forcible abduction are rare in the United States. Cases involving some kind of deception (i.e., telling mother her baby died at birth) are less rare." (Child Molesters Who Abduct, NCMEC, March 1995).

3. **Ransom** : Here the kidnapers take the child to sell back to its parents.
4. **Sexual** : These are the abductors who take a child for their sexual gratification. Once the offenders' goals are accomplished they either keep, return (the majority of cases), discard, or kill the child.

5. **Child killer** : This group takes children for the primary motivation of killing them. Sexual intercourse with the child is not always the motivating factor. For certain individuals, killing their child victim arouses and/or gratifies them.
6. **Miscellaneous criminal** : This is a catch-all child abduction category to include a wide variety of crime activity reasons. For example: child taken hostage to facilitate escape during a bank robbery, stealing a car with a child inside the vehicle, abducting a child in retaliation for a personal or criminal disagreement or to prevent testimony in court, etc.
7. **Political motivation** : The child is abducted in order to gain a political or governmental advantage.

There are four phases to a child abduction event. The build-up phase, the actual kidnap or abduction phase, the post-abduction phase, the recover/release or killing phase. The elements of these phases vary depending on the type of offender involved (preferential or situational child molesters) and whether the abduction occurred at the beginning of the sexual assault or if the child was lured, tricked or obtained without abduction but was not returned or released.

1. **The build-up phase** : The offender's fantasy and imagination about sexual activity (which may or may not specifically include children) takes over creating a real life need. The fantasy greatly influences the nature and content of the need, determining what role the victim will be forced to play and what actions the offender should take.

"A wide variety of precipitating stressors affect the desire and ability of the offender to control or act out these needs: *Active validation*, i.e., communicating with individuals who share or encourage your urges. *Passive validation*, i.e., collecting material that reinforces or advocates your urges. *Rationalization*, also help in giving in to these sexual needs. Finally, an opportunity to act out is either presented or planned and carried out." (Child Molesters Who Abduct, NCMEC, March 1995).

2. **The abduction phase** : The single most important factor in determining whether an offender will get away with a child abduction or not is whether or not the child selected is a complete stranger to the offender or will not be linked to him in any way possible.

## **Child molesters who abduct**

---

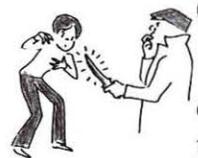
The 'thought driven' *situational child molester* tends to follow a method of operating. They consider the risk factors, take advantage of occasions and select child victims who fit within their crime profile. The 'fantasy driven' *preferential child molester* tends to follow a sexual ritual, where things are performed in a certain manner for the purpose of satisfying his needs. This highly predictable sexual behavior which they need to fulfill, generally increases the risks they are willing to take in order to obtain specific victims and engage in specific sexual acts.

- 3. The post-abduction phase :** After a sexually motivated abduction has occurred, the child will generally be kept for a brief period of time for the offender to engage in some amount of sexual activity. After the sexual activity, the offender generally releases the child or passes him along to someone else. The 'fantasy driven' offender may sometimes be compelled to keep the child for a longer period of time. Some cases indicate that certain victims had been brought to secret rooms, boxes, cages or chambers set up by the sexual offender. For the sadistic preferential child molester, keeping the abducted child alive and conscious for some period of time is essential in order to fulfill their arousal and gratification needs.
- 4. The recovery/release phase :** As stated earlier, the majority of children are released by their abductors but only when the offender has sexually finished with the child. Certain offenders just discard the child anywhere showing no concern for how or if the child will get home. Others facilitate the child's recovery by taking the time and effort to return the child to the location of the abduction or to the child's home.

Some victims are released because the pedophile realizes that reality (living happily ever after with their abducted victim) does not live up to the offender's fantasy. Some children are recovered due to investigative efforts, police pressure and media publicity. On the other hand, some victims are killed for the exact same reasons.

**Killing the abducted child :** The offender may kill the child for a variety of reasons: (a) Inadvertently - to fulfill the offender's selfish sexual needs. (b) To avoid detection - generally considered the factor for sexual homicides of children. (c) For sexual gratification, pleasure and arousal (sadistic or serial killers). (d) Misguided 'fantasy or love,' (e) Ambivalent hate, etc.

The abductor may kill the child before, during or after the sexual acts. Killing the child victim can also be the sexual act. Some abductors actually kill themselves after using deadly force on the child.





## Child molesters who abduct

"The homicide rate for children is highest between birth and age 4 and between 13 and 17. From 0 to 4, the most likely perpetrator is a family member and the least likely is a 'stranger' (parents who kill their younger offspring seem to be less likely than other murderers of children younger than 12 to sexually assault them prior to the murder). From 13 to 17, the most likely perpetrator is an acquaintance and the least likely is a family member." (Victimization Of Children, Finkelhor and Dziuba-Leatherman, 1994).

"In the United States, NISMART, the *National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrown Away Children* estimates, based on analysis of FBI and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children data, that there were 43 to 147 'stranger abduction' homicides annually between 1976 and 1987 with no discernible change in the rate....Older teens were by far the most common victims of stranger abduction homicide with young children at only one-fourth the risk or less." (Child Molesters Who Abduct, NCMEC, March 1995).

Once the murder has taken place, disposal of the body in some manner is the killer's next major preoccupation. Criminal investigation analysis of sexual homicide crime scenes may reflect and at times determine if the sexual child killer had organized or disorganized patterns of behavior. One of the best indications of whether a sexual child killer is organized or disorganized is how quickly and where the victim's body is found.

- 1. Organized sexual child killers** tend to be psychopaths, pedophiles, and/or serial killers who are clever (average or above average intelligence) and cunning, generally planning their crimes. They accidentally or intentionally abduct and kill their unknown child victims but frequently engage in aggressive behavior and sexual acts prior to their victim's death. They do their utmost in hiding the body and limiting evidence; however, at times, they display their trophies in order to shock and outrage society.
- 2. Disorganized sexual child killers** tend to be individuals who are younger, less intelligent, and more sexually and socially inadequate. They accidentally or intentionally abduct and kill their known child victims closer to their home or 'safe' area. Sexual acts are often performed after the victim has been rendered unconscious or has died and the body is frequently left at the assault scene. If they decide to dispose of the victim's body, they do so by quickly 'dumping' them or stashing them in shallow graves where they are more likely to be found.