Peterborough Police Service Board

Policy
Parental and Non-Parental Abductions and Attempts
2026-LE-062

Contents

1.0 Authority
2.0 Definitions
3.0 Board Policy
4.0 Direction to the Chief
5.0 Report to the Board
6.0 Implementation

1.0 Authority

1.1 Subsection 37(1) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1,* ("CSPA") provides that a Board shall provide adequate and effective policing in the area for which it has policing responsibility as required by section 10 of the CSPA;

1.2 Subsection 38 (2) of the CSPA provides that a Police Service Board may establish policies respecting matters related to the police service or the provision of policing;

1.3 O. Reg. 392/23: Adequacy and Effective Policing (General) prescribes standards for adequacy and effectiveness of police services;

1.4 The Board deems it appropriate that the Chief of Police establish procedures and processes for undertaking and managing investigations into missing persons including parental and non-parental abductions;

1.5 The Board deems it appropriate to have a policy on parental and non-parental abductions and attempts;

NOW THEREFORE THE PETERBOROUGH POLICE SERVICE BOARD APPROVES AND ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING:

2.0 Definitions

In this Policy:

2.1 **"Act" or "CSPA"** means the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1*, as amended;

2.2 **"AMBER Alert"** means an early warning system that quickly alerts the public of an abducted child who is in danger and may serve to assist in locating the child, and his/her abductor(s).

2.3 **"Board"** means the Peterborough Police Service Board;

2.4 **"Chief"** means the Chief of Police of the Peterborough Police Service;

2.5 **"Member"** means a member of the Peterborough Police Service as defined in the Act;

2.6 **"Ministry"** means the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services;

2.7 **"Service"** means the Peterborough Police Service.

3.0 Board Policy

3.1 The Board recognizes that matters of parental and non-parental abductions and attempts are serious in nature, and it is therefore the policy of this Board that investigations into such matters be conducted in a professional and thorough manner and in accordance with procedures established by the Chief as directed in this Policy.

4.0 Direction to the Chief

4.1 Procedures

4.1.1 The Chief shall develop and maintain procedures for undertaking and managing investigations into parental/familial abductions and attempts. These procedures shall be in accordance with the Service's criminal investigation management plan.

4.1.2 The Chief shall ensure that the procedures referred to in Section 4.1.1 comply with the procedures set out in the Ministry's designated Ontario Major Case Management Manual and with the prescribed requirements of sections 1, 6 (2), 14.1 and 18 (1) 8 of O. Reg. 395/23: Investigations.

4.1.3 The Chief shall ensure that an AMBER Alert activation is considered in all missing children investigations and Major Case Management is implemented in all cases involving AMBER Alert activation.

4.2 **Training**

4.2.1 The Chief shall ensure that Members investigating parental and non-parental abductions and attempts have the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities.

5.0 Report to the Board

5.1 The Chief shall report to the Board on the Service's implementation of this Policy as follows:

5.1.1 In response to questions from the Board regarding Service procedures developed pursuant to the policy, either verbally at a meeting when the question is asked, or in writing at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, as directed by the Board; and

5.1.2 Within thirty days of the Chief becoming aware of a breach of Service procedures developed pursuant to this policy that the Chief in his sole discretion determines to be a significant breach that is likely to result in liability for or reputational damage to the Board or the Service, the Chief shall:

a) report to the Board verbally regarding the matter at its next regularly scheduled meeting;

b) provide periodic verbal updates as directed by the Board at subsequent meetings pending completion of internal and external proceedings regarding the matter; and

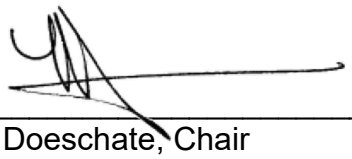
c) after the conclusion of all internal and external proceedings regarding the matter, provide a written report to the Board explaining:

i) the breach;
ii) the circumstances surrounding the breach;
iii) the Chief's liability or reputational concerns; and
iv) the corrective measures taken, including amendments to the procedure to guard against future breaches.

6.0 Implementation

6.1 That the Board approves and adopts this Policy #2026-LE-062 Parental and Non-Parental Abductions and Attempts which shall come into force on October 21, 2026.

6.2 That Policy #LE-040 Parental and Non-Parental Abductions and Attempts, enacted on October 20, 2014, is hereby repealed effective October 21, 2026.



Mary ten Doeschate, Chair
Peterborough Police Service Board

October 20, 2026
Date



Lisa Wilson, Executive Assistant
Peterborough Police Service Board

October 20, 2026
Date