

Crime Scene Scenario 3

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At 4:35pm a 911 call was placed by a woman stating that her seven year old daughter didn't arrive home from school as she was supposed to. The daughter is always home by 4:00, and comes straight from the bus stop. The bus stop is approximately two hundred feet from the house, and while there is an adjacent park the woman stated she searched "everywhere" and was unable to find her daughter. Her daughter has always come directly home according to the mother.

Upon arrival he should begin speaking with the caller and requesting additional units to go check the park, canvas the yard(s), and investigate the school. The caller cannot state for sure that her daughter got on the bus, so there's a chance that she was lost before the bus even left the school. Officers should determine how far the child could have gone, on their own, from the area where they were last seen. He should search the place of residence, with permission, and check key areas like closets or behind large appliances that children find entertaining. Checking more mature children's rooms may yield clues in the form of notes, attached to odd objects like mirrors or electronics. The officer should immediately ask the mother if she had contact with her daughter (does her daughter have a cell phone? If so, did she call it?) or anyone from the school. Does her daughter have any friends that she may have gone to an after-school event with? After the officer gathers this information, they should relay it to any other officers involved in the case.

With the total sum of information given in the scenario, the officer should request a few additional officers to help canvas the areas that the child could most immediately be: school, park, on the bus still, and the area around the complainant's house. Depending on the department's policy, a police dog could be used to see where the daughter went after getting off

the bus, if it's found that she initially got on it at school. The first officer should also talk to family members secondarily, see if there was anyone that may have a reason to potentially abduct the daughter. Perhaps a marital dispute or a custody battle is in place.

This information included, it's likely that the daughter is most likely just lost. Her age makes her prone to wandering off, taking a different route, or missing her bus exit. She could have also gone home with a friend, not understanding the implications of her not arriving home on time. Officers should approach this as an abduction situation should they find information to corroborate that.

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