



## **County to participate in CHILD Project: New identification system uses iris biometric recognition**

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Sheriff Pat Garrett said that he is looking forward to participating in a new national program unveiled Tuesday that will help identify and locate missing children and adults through the use of iris biometric recognition technology.

"I commend the Nation's Missing Children Organization and National Center for Missing Adults (NMCO) for developing the Children's Identification and Location Database (CHILD) Project and I look forward to participating in this effort to protect the children and families of White County," Garrett said. "I congratulate them on the formal kick-off of the system today in Phoenix and look forward to bringing this technology to White County."

The sheriff's office is currently working with NMCO to secure funding for the CHILD Project through grant applications and hopes to receive the system, at no cost to the taxpayers of White County, in the near future.

"The CHILD Project is a secure network and registry available to law enforcement and social service agencies across the nation that is designed to give authorized users access to data that can positively identify children in seconds. Iris recognition biometric technology positively determines the identity of an individual by capturing a high-resolution digital photograph of an individual's right and left eye. The technology is non-intrusive and an image of the iris is captured by simply looking into the camera," Garrett said.

Kym Pasqualini, President and CEO of the Nation's Missing Children Organization (NMCO) said, "I am honored to have Sheriff Garrett's support for this unique and innovative program. With Sheriff Garrett's help, we will fill an important gap in our nation's ability to quickly, and positively, identify missing children and adults."

According to U.S. Department of Justice studies, on average more than 2,000 children are reported missing every day across the nation and there are currently over 47,000 active missing adult cases.