



New ID system may soon be available

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MARINETTE -- Marinette County Sheriff Mike Kessler has announced that a new national system using iris biometric recognition technology will possibly be available in the near future to Marinette County children and families at no cost to Marinette County taxpayers.

Kessler commended the National Missing Children's Organization (NMCO) and National Center for Missing Adults (NCMA) for developing the Children Identification and Location Database (CHILD) project. He said he is looking forward to participating in this new effort.

Kessler received specialized training from the NMCO and NCMA in 2004.

The sheriff explained that the CHILD project is a secure network and registry that is available to law enforcement and social service agencies across the nation. It 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 iris.

Kessler said the technology can tell the difference between twins or even a person's left and right eye. The technology is non-intrusive, and an image of the iris is captured by simply looking into the camera. Participation is voluntary, just as it is now with fingerprint and photo ID card programs.

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

Kessler said he hopes every sheriff in the country will have access to one of these systems to help identify, locate and reunite missing individuals with their families.

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