

Friday, May 13, 2005

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Published on Friday, May 13, 2005 12:12 PM EDT

Sheriff's department announces plans to participate in new child ID project

By Sun Staff

Clark County Sheriff Ray Caudill has announced he is trying to obtain funding that would enable Clark County to participate in a new child identification project.

Caudill announced plans to participate in the Children's Identification and Location Database (CHILD) project. The system makes it possible to identify missing children in seconds using a high-resolution image of an individual's iris. The technology allows law enforcement authorities to differentiate between twins or even an individual's left and right eyes, according to Caudill.

The sheriff's department is working with the Nation's Missing Children Organization to obtain funding for the CHILD project through grant applications to pay for the system.

Kym Pasqualini, president and CEO of the NMCO, said her organization is pleased to have the Clark County Sheriff's Department involved in the program.

"With Sheriff Caudill's help, we will fill an important gap in our nation's ability to quickly and positively identify missing children and adults," she said.

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

When the system is in place, individuals in Clark County will be able to have their irises digitally scanned for positive identification in the event they are ever missing.

Caudill points out that participation in the program is voluntary.

"It is my hope that over the coming years, every sheriff in the nation will have access to one of these systems to help identify, locate and reunite missing individuals with their families," Caudill explained.

No timetable was given for full implementation in Clark County.