



## Press Release

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**Contact: Chief Deputy  
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The Thurston County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce our participation in a new program to help safeguard our children. Please join us at the Lacey Spring Fun fair as well as at the Thurston County Fair to take part in this exciting technology that should help reduce the incidents of missing children.

The **C**hildren's **I**dentification and **L**ocation **D**atabase (CHILD) utilizes iris recognition biometric technology to identify missing and endangered children. The CHILD Project is a nationwide network and registry that enables law enforcement to locate and identify missing children by comparing unique features contained in the iris. There are 235 unique characteristics to the iris, whereas there are only 70 in a fingerprint.

Once the information is obtained, it is uploaded to a national database maintained by The **N**ation's **M**issing **C**hildren **O**rganization (NMCO), a nonprofit agency providing nationwide assistance to law enforcement and families of missing persons. The agency, headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, was founded in 1994 and provides a variety of services including advocacy, search assistance, national distribution of information related to missing persons and various programs addressing child safety.

Iris recognition biometric technology positively determines the identity of an individual by capturing a high-resolution digital photograph of an individual's iris. The technology can tell the difference between twins or even an individual's right and left eye. The technology is non-intrusive. An image of the iris is captured by simply looking into the camera. The system was developed by Biometric

Intelligence & Identification Technologies (BI<sup>2</sup> Technologies) of Plymouth, Massachusetts. The enabling iris recognition biometric technology is provided by Iridian Technologies, Inc. and the system will employ Panasonic Security Systems' BM-ET330 Iris Readers.

The process is simple: Parents complete an informational form that includes data on the child and the parents. This information is entered into the dedicated notebook computer attached to the cameras and printer. Two pictures are taken of the child, one a portrait to be used for the identification card and a second picture of the iris that is maintained with the data file. A hard plastic identification card is then printed and given to the child and their parents. At the end of the event, all of the collected data is uploaded to the national database.

- For additional information on the Child Project, visit [www.thechildproject.org](http://www.thechildproject.org)
- For information on the system, visit <http://www.bi2technologies.com/>
- For additional information on iris recognition biometric technology, visit <http://www.iridiantech.com/basics.php>

[www.co.thurston.wa.us/sheriff](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/sheriff)