

Steps to take when a loved one goes missing

This resource offers guidance on what to do when you've lost touch with a loved one, including if they may be actively using substances. It outlines how to assess the urgency and where to find support with your search.



Before starting your search

Identify goals

Are you hoping to...

- confirm their safety?
- speak with them?
- connect them with treatment or services?

Identify patterns & past behaviours:

- Has this happened before?
- How was it resolved?
- How is this time the same or different?
- Does this fit with their usual behaviour?

Take care of yourself

The next page provides a list and QR code that can you can scan with your phone's camera for more supports & resources

Assess the situation

Before escalating, confirm they're truly missing. If the urgency is unclear, gather more info.

Are they intentionally taking space and not in danger?

Could they have lost access to communication (ie: phone)?

Are they usually unresponsive?

After gathering info, are they confirmed to be missing?

Is their immediate safety at risk?

Starting your search

Gather information

Use the channels below to see if your loved one has been sighted

Search Channels

- Friends & family
- Spots they frequently visit
- Check if admitted at hospitals, patient services, local shelters, & addiction clinics
- Social media & neighbourhood Facebook groups
- Check court services

Post & Notify

Use the channels below to assist with your search

Call & Alert*

- Request wellness check
- File missing persons report
- Call 911

*Consider their relationship with authority

Be mindful of the person's potential response to coming into contact with law enforcement.

Community Supports & Resources

for when a loved one goes missing

This list is intended to support missing adults who use substances, with resources and services specific to British Columbia.

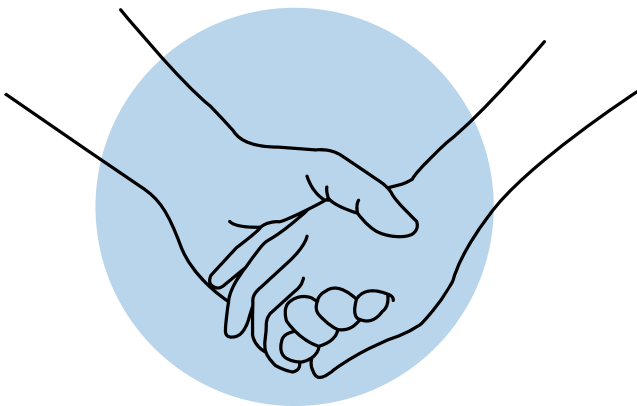
Emergency & Immediate Help

- 911
- BC Mental Health & Crisis Response
 - (310-6789 – no area code needed)
- BC Suicide Prevention and Intervention Line
 - (1-800-SUICIDE)
- VictimLink BC
 - Victims of crime & crisis support
 - (1-800-563-0808)

Substance Use and Harm

Reduction Sites & Networks

- Local Community Action Teams
 - caibc.ca/grants/community-action-teams
- Toward the Heart (BCCDC) – Overdose Prevention/ Drug Checking Services
 - towardtheheart.com/site-finder
- Consult your regional health authority site community harm reduction services



This resource was developed by the BC Centre on Substance Use's Family Members & Caregiver Representatives Committee

Support Networks for Family & Friends of People Who Use Drugs

- Moms Stop the Harm
 - www.momsstoptheharm.com
 - stoptheharm@gmail.com
 - [Facebook.com/MomsStopTheHarm/](https://www.facebook.com/MomsStopTheHarm/)
- Parents Forever
 - www.parentsforever.ca

Missing Persons Services:

- BC Search and Rescue
 - 1-800-461-9911
- Report a missing person with local police
 - [List of BC RCMP detachments](#)
- Canadian Centre for Information on Missing Adults – Curated resources list
 - ccima.ca/resource-links/

Grief & Healing Resources for Loss Related to Substance Use

The following are available in the Family Resources section at www.bccsu.ca:

- [Gone too Soon](#)
- [From Grief to Action: Coping Kit](#)

Scan for more info
& resources

