



# 2018 Silver Search Annual Report

alzheimer's association

AARP



ILETSB  
Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board



Illinois Department  
on Aging



# 2018 Annual Report

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Silver Search program was created by the passage of the Public Act 099-0322 (20 ILCS 2605/2605-485(e)(1)). The program is designed to provide increased public awareness and a toolkit for law enforcement when someone 21 years-of-age or older who is believed to have Alzheimer's disease, other related dementia, or other dementia-like cognitive impairment is reported missing. These types of missing person cases are referred to as Silver Search.

On January 1, 2016, the Silver Search program began by creating a Silver Search Task Force. The Task Force's mission is to create criteria for a toolkit and public awareness program as well as establish the use of technology as a means to locate persons with Alzheimer's or dementia who go missing. The Task Force shall monitor law enforcement training on how to react appropriately and effectively with individuals who suffer from Alzheimer's disease, other dementia, or other dementia-like cognitive impairment. The Silver Search Task Force is chaired by the Department of State Police Silver Search Program Coordinator. Members of the Silver Search Task Force include: Illinois State Police, Illinois Alzheimer's Association, Illinois Department on Aging, American Association of Retired Persons, Illinois Broadcasters Association, Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Lottery, Illinois Tollway Authority, Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, and Illinois Secretary of State.



The Illinois State Police Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS) is the information system linking Illinois police agencies, other state agencies, and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). The Intergovernmental Missing Child Recovery Act of 1984 and National Child Search Assistance Act of 1990 mandate immediate entry of all reports of missing persons into LEADS, which are automatically entered into the nationwide NCIC database.

The Endangered Missing Person Advisory is the mechanism for local law enforcement to request that notices be sent out to the public when a person who is high-risk goes missing. A high-risk missing person is any person who is believed to be in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability; environment, weather conditions; in the company of a potentially dangerous person; or other factors that may expose the person to possible harm or injury.

## **II. ILLINOIS CLEARINGHOUSE FOR MISSING PERSONS**

An effective resource in solving missing person cases, the Clearinghouse is a focal point for the coordination of efforts by law enforcement, social services, education and prevention programs, as well as legislative advocacy and the dissemination of missing person's photographs. Its responsibilities include:

- collecting and maintaining computerized data and investigating information on missing persons and unidentified bodies in the state;
- coordinating with and providing assistance to state and local public and private nonprofit agencies, including those of other states and the federal government, in the location and recovery of missing persons and the identification of unidentified persons and bodies;
- establishing and operating a statewide, toll-free telephone line for reports of missing persons and reports of sightings of missing persons;
- providing a uniform missing person reporting and investigation protocol for law enforcement agencies within the state;
- publishing a directory of missing persons for dissemination to state and local public and private nonprofit agencies and the public;
- compiling statistics on the missing children cases handled and resolved by the Clearinghouse each year, as well as summaries of the circumstances of each case;
- assisting in the training of law enforcement and other professionals about missing and unidentified persons and bodies;
- operating a clearinghouse of information about methods of locating and recovering missing persons;
- operating a resource center of information about the prevention of those with Alzheimer's and dementia from wandering; and
- developing and implementing a coordinated program for a statewide advisory system when a high-risk person goes missing.

## **III. FISCAL**

There is no fiscal liability to the state of Illinois. All activities are performed under the structure of the Department of State Police.

#### IV. SILVER SEARCH TASK FORCE

In 2018, the Silver Search Task Force continued the statewide awareness campaign. Radio and television public service announcements continued to air on media outlets all across Illinois. Social media continued to gain followers, digital displays of missing persons appeared on lottery terminals and interstate message boards. The Task Force trained hundreds of law enforcement personnel, caregivers, first responders, and guardians across Illinois. These training sessions highlighted the endangered missing person advisory and its usefulness in missing person cases. Because of these trainings, law enforcement all across Illinois is utilizing this advisory system in their missing person policies and procedures.

- The Silver Search Task Force met three times in 2018. The focus of the group was to increase the understanding of what a Silver Search is, and how it can be utilized to save a person's life.
- The Silver Search Task force met on March 28, 2018, in Springfield. The focus of the meeting was to update the group on the progress made on the public awareness campaign and technology upgrades, and finalizing a toolkit for law enforcement training.
- On July 20, 2018, the Silver Search Task Force met in Springfield to finalize the toolkit that will be utilized by law enforcement personnel when handling a missing person case involving someone that has Alzheimer's or dementia. These toolkits will be passed out at law enforcement trainings, academies, and conferences.
- The Silver Search Task Force met again on October 23, 2018, in Springfield. The meeting focused on finalizing policies and procedures for activation of multiple advisories, archiving advisories, and length of displays. Posters were also developed for the Illinois Department of Public health to display in their facilities.

#### V. SPECIAL ACTIVITY

In 2018, the Illinois Silver Search Task Force continued utilizing the Illinois Lottery and its provider Northstar Lottery to help provide public awareness of missing endangered persons. As a partner, the Illinois Lottery utilized its digital lottery terminals inside of retail establishments to display all endangered missing person advisories. In the closing months of 2018, the Task Force worked with the new lottery vendor for 2019, Intralot. Intralot will continue the partnership with the Task Force to display endangered missing person advisories on their thousands of lottery terminals across Illinois. These displays will depict the missing person information, photos of the missing person, and vehicle information.



The partnerships do not stop at lottery terminals. The Endangered Missing Person Advisory System began utilizing digital message boards over Illinois interstates and tollways. This partnership has led to increased awareness for drivers of Illinois roadways to identify vehicle descriptions and license plates involved in high-risk missing person cases.



In 2018, the Illinois Silver Search Task Force continued to host its website, [www.silversearchillinois.org](http://www.silversearchillinois.org), as the website for all the Endangered Missing Persons advisories. This website is maintained through a partnership with the Illinois Alzheimer's Association. The website provides the most up to date information on endangered missing persons.



With the help of the Illinois Broadcasters Association, a statewide public awareness campaign was launched in November 2017. Radio and television public service commercials were filmed to promote the Silver Search program. Radio and television stations across Illinois will air commercials on their airwaves throughout 2018 and continue into 2019.



In collaboration with the Department on Aging, the Silver Search Coordinator provided training to caregivers, guardians, and welfare workers who work regularly with the elderly. These training sessions outline what to do if someone in your care goes missing, and how to be prepared in case it should happen. This training will continue at various locations throughout 2019.



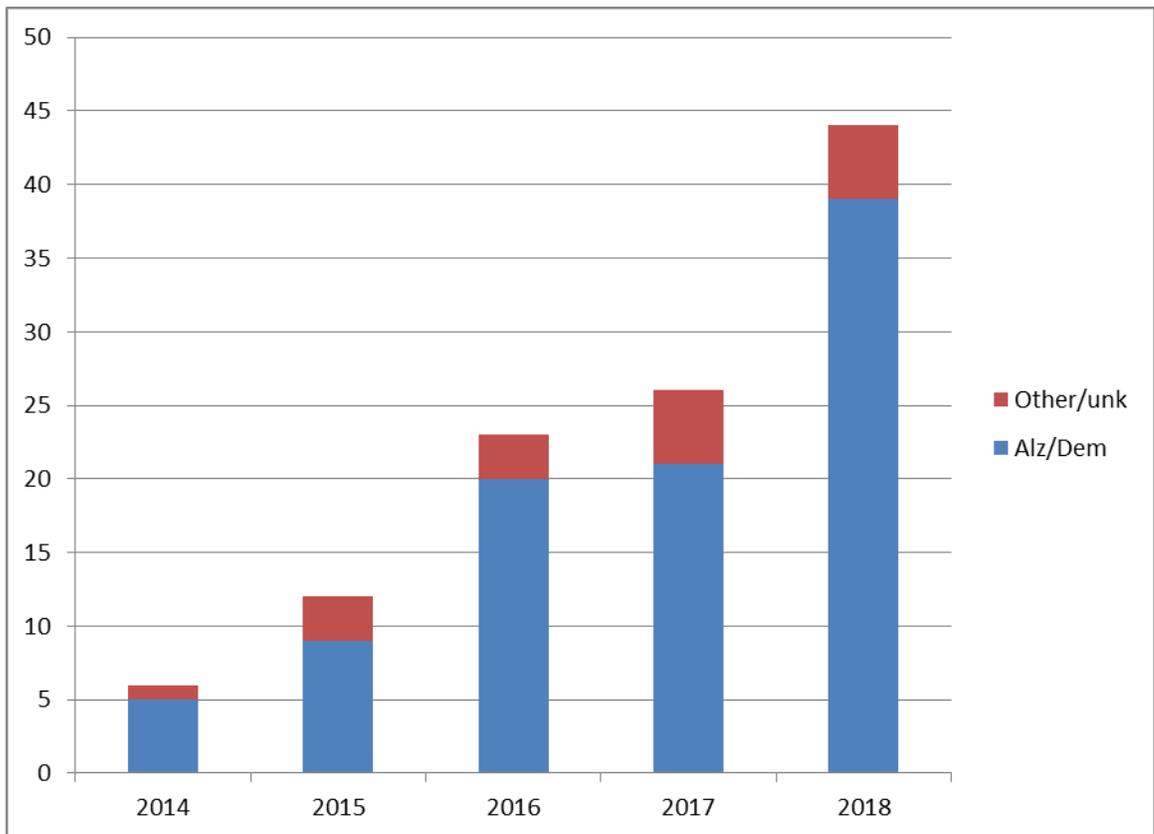
The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board will continue to train law enforcement throughout Illinois on how to interact with people with Alzheimer’s and dementia and what to do if they go missing. Refresher courses are offered for law enforcement officers throughout their careers. These courses will utilize the toolkit created by the Task Force in its curriculum.

In May 2018, Illinois marked its four-year anniversary of its partnership with Alert GPS. This technology provides a more efficient and effective warning system to law enforcement, media, and the public. The Law Enforcement Alerting Portal (L.E.A.P) delivers major efficiencies to the Illinois Endangered Missing Person Advisory system. It provides a quicker, more robust alerting technology that enables the issuance of Missing Endangered Advisories through a variety of sources including texts, emails, faxes, and website feeds.

## VI. STATISTICS

Because of the increased awareness the Silver Search Task Force has brought to the Endangered Missing Person Advisory, the usage has increased 86 percent over the last five years.

### ENDANGERED MISSING ADVISORIES



**ILLINOIS STATE POLICE  
ILLINOIS CLEARINGHOUSE  
FOR MISSING PERSONS**

**2200 SOUTH DIRKSEN PARKWAY  
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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62703-4528**

**1-800-U HELP ME  
(1-800-843-5763)**



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