

THE TYPICAL ABDUCTOR

Profile developed from an analysis of 292 cases occurring from 1983 through June 2014.

1. Usually a female of childbearing age, range now 12 to 55, who appears overweight to suggest pregnancy.
2. Most likely compulsive; most often relies on manipulation, lying and deception.
3. Frequently indicates she has lost a baby or is incapable of having one.
4. Often married or cohabitating; companion's desire for a baby or the abductor's desire to provide her companion with "his" baby may be the motivation for the abduction.
5. Usually lives in the community where the abduction takes place.
6. Frequently initially visits nursery and maternity units at more than one health care facility prior to the abduction; asks detailed questions about procedures and the maternity floor layout; frequently uses a fire exit stairwell for her escape; and may also try to abduct from the home setting.
7. Usually plans the abduction, but does not necessarily target a specific infant; frequently seizes any opportunity present to abduct a baby.
8. Frequently impersonates a nurse or other allied health care personnel.
9. Often becomes familiar with health care staff members, staff member work routines and victim parents.
10. Often demonstrates a capability to provide care to the baby once the abduction occurs, within her emotional and physical abilities.

In addition an abductor who abducts from the home setting (is):

11. More likely to be single while claiming to have a partner.
12. Often targets a mother **whom she may find by visiting health care facilities** and tries to meet the target family.
13. Often plans the abduction **and** brings a weapon, although the weapon may not be used.
14. Often impersonates a health care or social services professional when visiting the home.

Note: There is no guarantee an infant abductor will fit this description.

Prevention is the best defense against infant abductions.
Know whom to look for and that person's mode of operation.

To receive free technical assistance by telephone or on-site
call the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® at
1-800-THE-LOST® (1-800-843-5678).

Post this flier out of view of the public in locations such as at the nurses' station,
nurses' lounge, medication room, emergency department, security office and risk management unit.
A PDF version of this flier is available at www.missingkids.com/InfantAbduction.