

# THE INVESTIGATION OF Missing & Exploited Children

BY JOSEPH TRAVERS



**S**aved In America is a California nonprofit organization of former police officers and Navy SEALs turned licensed and insured private investigators who assist parents and law enforcement in locating missing and exploited children.

### **SIA INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS**

Saved In America (SIA) cases are structured in 6 steps: R.E.S.C.U.E. In all the following cases the reader will see one or more of these investigative steps in action. All SIA investigators are highly trained former police officers, private investigators, and former special operators (Navy SEALs, Marine Raiders, British SAS) who are both insured and licensed by the California State Bureau of Security & Investigative Services. SIA's staff also includes social networking investigators, case managers, and attorneys. All SIA staff and operators are Certified Missing & Exploited Child Investigators (CMECI).

#### **STEP 1: RECORD**

**Initial Parental/Custodial Contact / Power of Attorney / Gather Intel / Plan and Execute:**

SIA receives cases in one of two different ways: either a member of the public informs SIA or a parent(s) or guardian will contact SIA. From this point, SIA contacts parents for information on missing children from NCMEC (The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children). Additionally, SIA conducts missing children investigations by geographical location by searching the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children website, MissingKids.org.

Once the parent/guardian is contacted, an application for services and power of attorney (POA) is received. The POA allows the SIA team to coordinate with law enforcement, other government agencies, and rehabilitation services in relation to the missing person.

#### **STEP 2. EXAMINE**

**Initiate Social Networking Investigation Matrix / Incorporate Intelligence / Develop Law Enforcement Liaison**

After collecting the requested information from the parent(s), the case is then forwarded to a social networking investigator, a specially trained Saved In America investigator who collects and processes digital information looking for leads.

The social networking investigator targets leads from social networking sites for workable intelligence. The case manager then combines all intelligence to find workable leads. The law enforcement liaison contacts local law enforcement to advise them of the case findings.

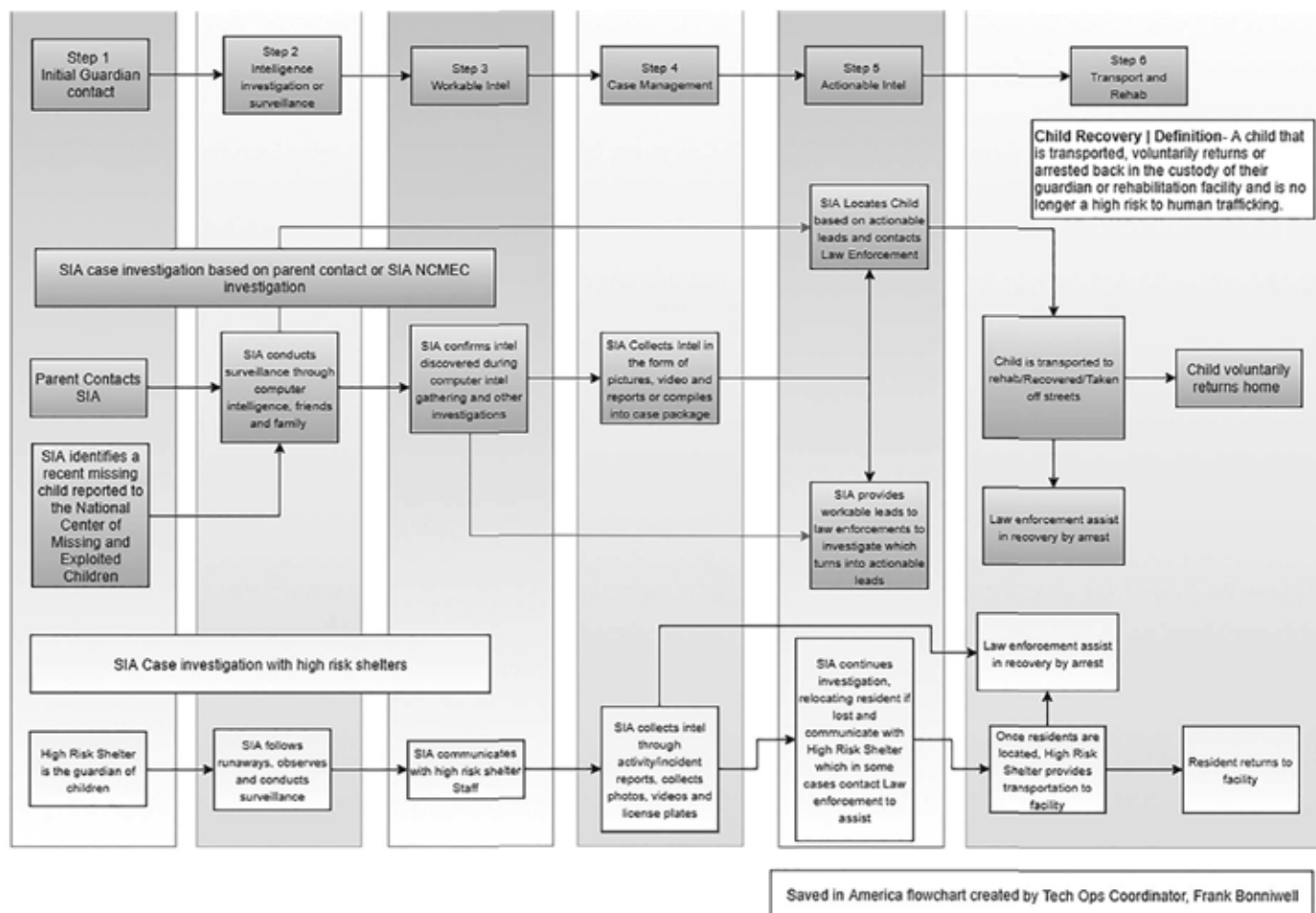
#### **STEP 3. SUMMARIZE**

**Prepare Case Management System / Incorporate Social Investigation / Develop Investigative Leads for further Review / Investigation**

Saved In America's workable intelligence investigators confirm leads from social networking and parental/witness information and tips received from the public. The intelligence is then given to an SIA team consisting of former law enforcement agents, or the workable intelligence investigators. The team will work to confirm or discredit the leads. Once confirmed, the intelligence goes to the case manager.



Figure 4: SIA investigative Process



## STEP 4. COORDINATE

### Confirmation of Investigative Leads / Coordinate with Law Enforcement Liaison / Develop Recovery Plan

The Saved In America case manager collects all evidence from SIA investigation teams and organizes reports, photos, video and other investigative intelligence. The case manager assists the social network investigator and maintains the Investigative Case Package. (See sample Investigative Case Package.)

## STEP 5. UNITE

### Brief Recovery Plan / Execute Identification / Notify Law Enforcement and Execute Recovery

The actionable intelligence investigators consist of SIA's former military special operators (majority Navy SEALs, Raiders, and British SAS). When the workable intelligence investigators have identified the victim(s), suspect(s), or an immediate associate, they pass the information on to the actionable intelligence investigators. The teams will use the workable intelligence, verified by the case manager, to locate the child. Once located, the team immediately coordinates with law enforcement for the rescue of the child and the arrest of the predator(s).

## STEP 6. EQUALIZE

### Recovery & Rehabilitation

The actionable intelligence team, made up of actionable intelligence investigators, will transport the child to a pre-approved rehabilitation center, police station, or return them to their home/family, in coordination with the parent/guardian(s).

### Follow-up Investigation and Civil / Criminal Prosecution

The case manager will continue to accumulate follow up intelligence to supply to law enforcement for criminal prosecution and to SIA attorneys for civil action.

### SIA INVESTIGATIVE CASE PACKAGE OUTLINE:

- Overview (Synopsis)
- Background (How did we get the case)
- Investigation
  - Initial Parental/Custodian Contact
  - Social Networking
  - Workable Intelligence
  - Actionable Intelligence
  - Transport and Rehabilitation
  - Criminal/Civil Prosecution
- Recovery (How was the recovery accomplished)
- Analysis
  - Hours expended
  - Expenses
  - Days SIA on the case
  - Parents expense on outside PI's
  - Days child missing before SIA took case
  - Amount of reward/expenses paid by parents or donor(s) for reward
  - Other expenses paid by parent or donor(s) **PI**



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man- smuggling-trafficking-center and President of the National Association for Missing & Exploited Children [www.HelpRescueChildren.org](http://www.HelpRescueChildren.org) Mr. Travers is a Police/Fire Commissioner for the City of Oceanside, California since 2008. He is the former Chairman and Vice President for the Professional Investigators of California (PICA), and former President for the California Association of Licensed Investigators (CALI). He received the President's Award in 2014 and the Investigator of the Year Award in 2015. As Executive Director for [www.SavedInAmerica.org](http://www.SavedInAmerica.org) Pastor Travers has assisted in over 258 rescues of young girls vulnerable to Child Sex Traffickers since December 2014.