

## RUSSIA

International Instrument	Signature	Ratification, Acceptance (A), Approval (AA), Accession (a), Succession (d)	Entry Into Force
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	26 Jan 1990	16 Aug 1990	15 Sep 1990
UN Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	26 Sep 2012	24 Sep 2013	24 Oct 2013
Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons	12 Dec 2000	26 May 2004	25 Jun 2004
UN Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict	15 Feb 2001	24 Sep 2008 <sup>1</sup>	24 Oct 2008
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance			
Hague Convention on International Child Abduction		28 Jul 2011 A <sup>2</sup>	1 Oct 2011

In Russia, there are 12 laws that refer directly or indirectly to missing children:

1. Law of the Russian Federation No. 2487-1 on Private Detective and Security Guard Activities in the Russian Federation of 11 March 1992;
2. Constitution of the Russian Federation of 12 December 1993;
3. Federal Law No. 144-FZ on Operational Investigative Activity of 12 August 1995;
4. Family Code of the Russian Federation No. 223-FZ of 29 December 1995;
5. Criminal Code of the Russian Federation No. 63-FZ of 13 June 1996;
6. Federal Law No. 118-FZ on Court Marshals of 21 July 1997;
7. Federal Law No. 124-FZ on the Basic Guarantees of the Rights of the Child in the Russian Federation of 24 July 1998;
8. Federal Law No. 120-FZ on Basic Principles of Prevention of Neglect of Minors and Crimes Committed by Them of 24 June 1999;
9. Federal Law No. 3-FZ on Police of 7 February 2011;
10. Code of Administrative Violations of the Russian Federation No. 195-FZ of 30 December 2001;
11. Civil Procedure Code of the Russian Federation No. 138-FZ of 14 November 2002; and

<sup>1</sup> See Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, G.A. Res. A/RES/54/263 (May 25, 2000), entered into force Feb. 12, 2002, Status of Ratification, Declaration, at <http://indicators.ohchr.org/> (last visited July 5, 2016) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

<sup>2</sup> See 1980 Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, Oct. 25, 1980, T.I.A.S. No. 11670, 1343 U.N.T.S. 98 Reservations, at <https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/status-table/notifications/?csid=1112&disp=resdn> (last visited June 29, 2016) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

12. Federal Law No.229-FZ on Enforcement Proceedings of 2 October 2007.

### General Child Protection

On 1 June 2012, the President of the Russian Federation approved the National Child Welfare Strategy for 2012-2017.<sup>3</sup> This document outlines certain measures to improve the protection of children's rights in Russia, among which is bringing Russian law into compliance with international standards and ratification of several international instruments on the protection of children's rights.<sup>4</sup> The State Duma Committee on Family, Women and Children is responsible for amending and improving child protection legislation in Russia.<sup>5</sup> Other authorities tasked with protecting children's rights in Russia include the Governmental Committee for the Affairs of Minors and Protection of their Rights,<sup>6</sup> Children's Rights Ombudsman for the President of the Russian Federation,<sup>7</sup> and Custody and Guardianship Authorities of the constituent units of the Russian Federation.<sup>8</sup>

Children's rights organizations in Russia include the Russian Children in Need Fund (Children in Need Fund),<sup>9</sup> NGO Charity Foundation Protecting Children from Abuse (Charity Foundation),<sup>10</sup> and the National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPCC).<sup>11</sup> The Children in Need Fund's primary goal is to prevent child neglect and abuse and to help children deprived of parental care find new families.<sup>12</sup> In 2010, the Children in Need Fund created a free national hotline number for children (8 800 2000 122).<sup>13</sup> When calling this number, children and parents can receive emergency psychological counseling.<sup>14</sup> The Charity Foundation's mission is aimed at developing a multidisciplinary network to support child victims of abuse and neglect in Russia; preventing child abuse and neglect; and educating the public and governmental authorities about this problem.<sup>15</sup> The NFPCC focuses on protecting the rights of a child to be raised in a family; reforming the child welfare system; and developing an effective system for working with children and families in crisis.<sup>16</sup> The NFPCC has developed a series of effective child abandonment prevention services and models, which have been implemented in multiple regions throughout Russia.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Vladimir Putin signed the Executive Order On the National Children's Strategy for 2012-2017, KREMLIN.RU (June 1, 2012), at <http://eng.kremlin.ru/news/3949> (last visited June 28, 2016); Executive Order of the President of the Russian Federation No. 761 On National Children's Strategy for 2012-2017 of 1 June 2012, at <http://kremlin.ru/acts/bank/35418> (last visited Jan. 11, 2013).

<sup>4</sup> The National Strategy for Action on Children in 2012-2017, at <http://www.komitet2-6.km.duma.gov.ru/site.xp/050049124053052055.html> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>5</sup> STATE DUMA COMMITTEE ON FAMILY, WOMEN AND CHILDREN, *Clause 3, Rules of the State Duma Committee on Family, Women and Children*, at <http://www.komitet2-6.km.duma.gov.ru/site.xp/052048055.html> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>6</sup> The Government Commission for Juvenile Affairs and the Protection of their Rights, at <http://government.ru/department/159/about/> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>7</sup> Ombudsman for Children's Rights for the Russian Federation, at <http://www.rfdeti.ru/> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>8</sup> Federal Law No. 48-FZ On Custody and Guardianship of 24 April 2008, at <http://минобрнауки.рф/%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BA%D1%83%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D1%8B/1704> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>9</sup> The Fund for the Support of Children in Difficult Life Situations, at <http://fond-detyam.ru/> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>10</sup> NGO Charity Foundation Protecting Children from Abuse, at <http://www.zadetej.ru> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>11</sup> The National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, *About Us*, at <http://www.sirotstvo.ru/eng/about/index.shtml> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>12</sup> The Fund for the Support of Children in Difficult Life Situations, *About Us*, at <http://fond-detyam.ru/about/> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>13</sup> The Fund for the Support of Children in Difficult Life Situations, *Children's Helpline*, at <http://fond-detyam.ru/detskiy-telefon-doveriya/> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> NGO Charity Foundation Protecting Children from Abuse, *Mission Statement*, at [http://zadetej.ru/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=25&Itemid=31](http://zadetej.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=25&Itemid=31) (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>16</sup> National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, *supra* note 383.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

### General Missing Children's Issues

The State Duma of the Russian Federation – the lower house of the Russian legislature – created a special inter-departmental working group affiliated with the State Duma Committee on Family, Women and Children to develop legislation related specifically to the issue of missing children.<sup>18</sup> On 14 April 2016, the working group held its first meeting with representatives from the State Duma Committee on Family, Women and Children; the General Prosecutor's Office; the Federation Council (the upper house of the legislature); the Investigative Committee; the Ministry of Internal Affairs; the Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications; the National Monitoring Center for Missing and Exploited Children; and the Search-and-Rescue Squad "Liza Alert" (Liza Alert). Participants discussed possible changes to the Federal Law on the Basic Guarantees of the Rights of the Child in the Russian Federation of 1998 (Law on the Rights of the Child) in order to highlight missing children as a special category of children in hardship and to clearly define their legal status, as well as to establish additional guarantees of protection of their rights, including the right to rehabilitation.<sup>19</sup>

Section 6 of the National Child Welfare Strategy for 2012-2017 addresses the creation of the Russian National Monitoring Assistance Center for Missing and Exploited Children.<sup>20</sup> In 2013, the Regional Public Organization Center of Internet Technologies (ROCIT) received a Presidential grant coordinated by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation to create and launch the Center "NeDopusti!" as the prototype for the Russian National Monitoring Assistance Center for Missing and Exploited Children.<sup>21</sup> NeDopusti!, which already exists and is fully functioning, is a member of ICMEC's GMCN and the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE). NeDopusti! assists law enforcement agencies, civil society groups, and other organizations in the search for missing children, and prevents and detects the illegal exploitation of minors and child abuse. It provides psychological assistance to the families and friends of children who are missing or have been victims of violence, and educates the public about the problem of missing children, illegal exploitation, and violence against children.<sup>22</sup>

In 2014, a National Monitoring Center for Missing and Exploited Children was created in Russia at the initiative of the Children's Rights Ombudsman for the President of the Russian Federation.<sup>23</sup> Like the Center NeDopusti!, this National Monitoring Center was also established to combine the efforts of the State authorities, NGOs, and citizens in matters related to the search for missing children, as well as the prevention and suppression of violence against and sexual abuse of children.<sup>24</sup>

### Definition of "Missing Child"

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<sup>18</sup> *The State Duma will create a special group on searching for missing children* (Dec. 1, 2015), NOVOSTI FEDERATSII, at <http://regions.ru/news/2566880/> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>19</sup> *Legislation for Missing and Exploited Children will be Improved* (April 18, 2016), OBSHCAYA GAZETA, at <http://www.og.ru/society/2016/04/18/80310> (last visited June 28, 2016); *The State Duma Committee on Family, Women and Children, On 14 April 2016 the interdepartmental working group "On improving the legislation for Missing and Exploited Children" affiliated with the State Duma Committee on Family, Women and Children will hold its first meeting*, at <http://www.komitet2-6.km.duma.gov.ru/site.xp/052057124049051050054.html> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>20</sup> The National Strategy for Action on Children in 2012-2017, *supra* note 376.

<sup>21</sup> Agreement No. 89-13 On providing a grant, concluded between the Regional Public Organization "Institute of Problems of Civil Society" and the Regional Public Organization of Internet Technologies on 21 October 2013 (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children); Web portal GRANTS of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Internet site of the Contest of the Government Support Not-for-Profit NGOs, *Institute of the Problems of Civil Society – Winners – Regional Public Organization of Internet Technologies*, at <http://grants.oprf.ru/grants115/operators/inpgo/winners/rec379/> (last visited August 16, 2016).

<sup>22</sup> NeDopusti!, *About Project*, at <http://nedopusti.ru/site/page/aboutproject/> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>23</sup> *Pavel Astakhov proposed the creation of a National Center for Missing and Exploited Children* (Dec. 5, 2014), at <http://www.rfdeti.ru/display.php?id=9230> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>24</sup> National Monitoring Center for Missing and Exploited Children, *About the Center*, at <http://findchild.ru/about> (last visited June 28, 2016).

There is no definition for a “missing child” or a “missing person” in Russian legislation. However, Russian doctrine (*i.e.*, thoughts and opinions of Russian academics and law professors) defines a “missing person” as a person who disappeared suddenly for no apparent reason to others and whose whereabouts are unknown, including minors who ran away from home, boarding schools, orphanages, or detention centers and special education institutions; and mentally ill persons who ran away from home or medical institution.<sup>25</sup> The Ministry of Internal Affairs uses a similar definition of a “missing person.”<sup>26</sup>

Article 1 of the Law on the Rights of the Child defines “children in difficult life situations” as:

children without parental care; children with disabilities; children with health limitations who have disadvantages in physical and/or mental development; child victims of armed and ethnic conflicts, environmental and technological disasters, natural disasters; children from families of refugees and displaced persons; children trapped in extreme conditions; child victims of violence; children serving sentences of deprivation of liberty in juvenile correctional facilities; children in educational organizations for students with deviant (socially dangerous) behavior, in need of special care, education and requiring special pedagogical approaches (special educational open type or custodial institutions); children living in low-income families; children with behavioral disorders; children whose vital functioning is objectively broken as a result of their circumstances and who cannot overcome these circumstances alone or with the help of the family.

According to Article 15 of the Law on the Rights of the Child, government authorities protect the rights of such children in difficult life situations.

Russian legislation mentions several categories of runaways and defines a “minor in a socially dangerous situation.” Article 3, clause 2(4), of the Federal Law on the Basic Principles of Preventing the Neglect of Minors and Crimes Committed by them of 1999 (Law on Prevention of Neglect of Minors) and Article 12, clause 12, of the Federal Law on Police of 2011 enumerate the following categories of runaways:

- minors who left their families without permission;
- minors who ran away from specialized institutions for minors needing social rehabilitation (organizations for orphans and children left without parental care); and
- minors who ran away from specialized custodial institutions for education and upbringing.

Russian law requires the police to search for such runaways and send them to the relevant institutions and agencies for prevention of child neglect and juvenile crimes.<sup>27</sup>

Article 1 of the Law on Preventing the Neglect of Minors defines “a minor in a socially dangerous situation” as a person who, as a result of neglect or abandonment, is in a situation dangerous to his

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<sup>25</sup> Vagin O.A., Isichenko A.P., Chechetin A.E., *Commentary to the Law On Operational Investigative Activity*, 2009, DELOVOY DVOR, at <https://www.lawmix.ru/commlaw/489/> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>26</sup> Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation, *For Citizens*, at <https://mvd.ru/help/wanted> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>27</sup> Article 12 clause 12 of the Federal Law No. 3-FZ On Police of 2011, at [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_110165/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_110165/) (last visited June 28, 2016); Article 21 part 1 clause 3 of the Federal Law No. 120-FZ On Basic Principles of Prevention of Neglect of Minors and Crimes Committed by Them of 1999, at [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_23509/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_23509/) (last visited June 28, 2016).

or her life or health or inadequate to his or her upbringing or care, or commits an offense or anti-social activity.

Russian law enforcement authorities on occasion unofficially call runaways “begunki” (runners), which includes minors who have run away from the place of their residence or stay (other than a place of residence or stay of their biological parents), and/or are declared missing as a result of intentional running away more than once, as well as minors who have become vagrants.<sup>28</sup>

While there is no definition of the category of “lost, injured or otherwise missing” children in Russian legislation, Russian police include such missing children in the unofficial category of “poteryashki” (lost).<sup>29</sup> These are missing minors who did not intentionally lose contact with parents or legal representatives, as well as children who left the place of residence or stay of their biological parents, unless there is clear evidence that a child became a vagrant or there are other criteria relevant to the category of “runners.”<sup>30</sup> The category of “poteryashki” sometimes also includes abducted children, although, as a general rule, they are categorized as abducted.<sup>31</sup> For example, lost or injured minors could be those who lost their memory shortly after leaving home (as a result of injuries or road traffic accidents), and minors who disappeared due to possible crimes.<sup>32</sup>

### Abandonment

Article 1 of the Law on Preventing the Neglect of Minors defines neglected and abandoned children as follows:

Neglected child – a minor left without adult supervision over his or her behavior due to nonperformance or improper performance of duties related to child’s upbringing, education and/or support by his or her parents or other legal representatives or officials;

Abandoned minor – a neglected child without a place of residence and/or a place of temporary stay.

### Kidnapping and Abduction

Article 126 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation of 1996 criminalizes kidnapping and abduction of a person. The sentence for kidnapping or abduction of a minor is harsher than in the case of an adult and may result in deprivation of liberty for a term of 5 to 12 years, possibly with personal restraint for a term of up to two years.<sup>33</sup>

Article 153 of the Criminal Code prohibits substitution of a child committed for financial gain or bad motives (e.g., when a woman switches infants at birth in the hospital because her child was born with a disability and she wants a healthy infant). The punishment for this crime is imprisonment for a term of up to five years and a fine of up to 200,000 rubles or equal to the amount of the salary or other income of the convicted person for a period of up to 18 months.

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<sup>28</sup> Ivan Petrov, *Where do children walk away* (Feb. 4, 2016), LENTA.RU, at <https://lenta.ru/articles/2016/02/04/propavshie/> (last visited June 28, 2016); Comment by ROCIT and NeDopusti! to the verification letter sent by ICMEC (May 18, 2016).

<sup>29</sup> Oksana Golos, *Gone missing with the right to hope* (April 2, 2011), BALTINFO, at <http://www.baltinfo.ru/2011/04/02/Propali-s-pravom-na-nadezhdju-196457> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>30</sup> Comment by ROCIT and NeDopusti! to the verification letter sent by ICMEC (May 18, 2016).

<sup>31</sup> *Id.*

<sup>32</sup> Oksana Golos, *Gone missing with the right to hope*, *supra* note 401.

<sup>33</sup> Part 2 (d) Article 126 of the Criminal Code of Russia, at [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_10699/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_10699/) (last visited June 28, 2016).

## Parental Abduction

Russia acceded to the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction on 28 July 2011<sup>34</sup> and passed implementing legislation amending several laws in order to establish a clear framework for handling international parental child abduction cases.<sup>35</sup>

Parental abduction is not considered a crime under Russian law.<sup>36</sup> A parent or other person who claims that, in breach of his or her custody rights, a child has been wrongfully removed to or retained in Russia may apply to the respective Russian court for an order to have the child returned.<sup>37</sup> When the child's whereabouts are unknown, a parent or other legal representative of the abducted child may apply to the Central Authority in Russia – the Ministry of Education and Science – with a request to start the search for the missing child prior to the start of court proceedings. The Ministry of Education and Science may request the Court Marshals to initiate the search for the missing child. Once the child is found, the Ministry of Education and Science will recommend the competent court in Russia to which the applicant may submit a request to return the child.<sup>38</sup> However, this return mechanism for an abducted child works only if there is an established treaty relationship between Russia and the country of citizenship of the parent whose child was abducted to Russia as is true in all countries that are signatory to the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction.<sup>39</sup>

When a child is abducted by a family member in Russia, a missing person report must be filed with Russian police, unless there is: a court order granting custody or visitation and requiring return of the child to another parent or legal representative; an agreement determining the place of residence of the child; or a visitation order.<sup>40</sup> If such court order or agreement is violated, the search for, and return of, the missing child will be conducted by the Court Marshals,<sup>41</sup> along with police assistance.<sup>42</sup>

The General Administration for Migration Issues of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is responsible for issuing international passports for Russian citizens. At the time of application for a child's passport,

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<sup>34</sup> Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction: Status Table, *supra* note 47.

<sup>35</sup> Relevant amendments to the legislation of the Russian Federation were introduced by the Federal Law No. 126-FZ "On amending certain statutes of the Russian Federation in connection with accession of the Russian Federation to the Convention On the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction" of 5 May 2014, at <https://rg.ru/2014/05/07/izm-akt-deti-dok.html> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>36</sup> Commentary to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (edited by Skuratov Yu.I.) at <http://www.vuzlib.su/beta3/html/1/13884/14037/> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>37</sup> Article 244.11 part 1 of the Civil Procedure Code of the Russian Federation, at [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_39570/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_39570/) (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>38</sup> Reference book for citizens on applying the rules of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction of 25 October 1980 on the territory of the Russian Federation while resolving family disputes, at [https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.usynovite.ru%2F%2FInternational\\_family\\_disputes%2Fspnc%2Fsprav.doc](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.usynovite.ru%2F%2FInternational_family_disputes%2Fspnc%2Fsprav.doc) (last visited June 28, 2016); Article 65 Clause 1.2 of the Federal Law No. 229-FZ On Enforcement Proceedings of 2007, at [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_71450](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_71450) (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>39</sup> See Article 38 of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction of 25 October 1980, *supra* note 4.

<sup>40</sup> U.S. Department of State, *International Parental Child Abduction, Country Information, Russia*, at <https://travel.state.gov/content/childabduction/en/country/russia.html> (last visited June 29, 2016); A comment by Association of Volunteer Organizations "Search for Missing Children" (Poisk Detei) during online meeting (April 11, 2016).

<sup>41</sup> Article 65 Clauses 1 and 4 of the Federal Law No. 229-FZ On Enforcement Proceedings of 2007, *supra* note 410.

<sup>42</sup> Comment by ROCIT and NeDopusti! to the verification letter sent by ICMEC (May 18, 2016).

only one parent or guardian must be present.<sup>43</sup> Physical presence of the child is also required.<sup>44</sup> There are no requirements for dual signatures or written consent of the other parent who is not present at the time of application for a child's passport.<sup>45</sup> However, if one of the parents is opposed to the issuance of the passport for the child, he or she may resort to the courts, and the authorities will not issue the passport.<sup>46</sup>

Russian law contains a number of requirements regarding cross-border travel with children. Generally, a child traveling with one parent or guardian does not need the consent of the other parent to exit Russia. However, if the other parent opposes the child's exit from Russia, such parent can resort to the courts. If a child travels alone without a parent or guardian, then he or she must have a passport and notarized consent of his or her parents or guardians stating the duration of travel and the country (countries) that the child intends to visit.<sup>47</sup>

While there are no requirements in Russian law that specifically control the entry of children onto the territory of Russia, there are general rules applicable to all foreign citizens or stateless persons entering Russia. For example, any foreigner or a stateless person must present a valid identity document and a visa.<sup>48</sup>

### Reporting Mechanism

When a child is missing, a missing person report must be filed with the local police department and contact must be made with the Bureau of Registration of Accidents. Reporting a missing child to the police can be done in person or through the police telephone number (102). A duty officer must accept the report or, at the request of the caller, call the phone number of the nearest police dispatch center.<sup>49</sup> Any person, not only a relative of the missing child, can file a report.<sup>50</sup>

Two toll-free hotlines specifically handle missing children cases. NeDopusti! operates a 24-hour hotline (8 800 505 5123).<sup>51</sup> The second 24-hour hotline is administered by Liza Alert (8 800 700 54 52).<sup>52</sup> Anyone can call these two numbers free-of-charge from any region of Russia. Reports can also be made to the Association of Volunteer Organizations Search for Missing Children (hereafter referred to as Search for Missing Children) (8 499 686 02 01).

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<sup>43</sup> General Administration for Migration Issues of the Ministry of Interior of Russia, *Issue of an international passport*, at <http://rybm.mba.pf/gosuslugi/item/12891/> (last visited June 29, 2016); Article 8 of the Federal Law No. 114-FZ on exit from the Russian Federation and entry to the Russian Federation of 15 August 1996, at [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_11376/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_11376/) (last visited June 29, 2016).

<sup>44</sup> General Administration for Migration Issues of the Ministry of Interior of Russia, *Issue of an international passport*, at <http://rybm.mba.pf/gosuslugi/item/12891/> (last visited June 29, 2016).

<sup>45</sup> *Id.*; Federal Law No. 114-FZ On exit from the Russian Federation and entry to the Russian Federation, *supra* note 415 at Article 8.

<sup>46</sup> *Id.* at Article 10.

<sup>47</sup> *Id.* at Articles 21-22.

<sup>48</sup> *Id.* at Article 6.

<sup>49</sup> Clauses 2.1.3 and 2.2.3 of the Instruction on Receiving, Registering and Resolving Statements and Reports on Crimes, Administrative Violations and Incidents by territorial bodies of the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation, approved by the Order of the Ministry of Interior of Russia No. 736 of 29 August 2014; Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation, *For Citizens*, at <https://mvd.ru/help/wanted> (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>50</sup> Search-and-Rescue Squad Liza Alert, *If you do not know where your loved one, and are not sure if everything is alright with him or her – Act now!*, at <http://lizaalert.org/promo.asp?si=4&sf=4&sfp=13> (last visited June 29, 2016).

<sup>51</sup> NeDopusti!, at <http://nedopusti.ru/> (last visited June 29, 2016); *Hotlines of NGOs for different purposes* (July 4, 2014), at <https://svetlovalibrary.wordpress.com/2014/07/04/desyat-goryachih-linij-nko-na-vse-sluchai-zhizni/> (last visited June 29, 2016).

<sup>52</sup> Search-and-Rescue Squad Liza Alert, *A hotline for missing children was launched in Russia*, at <http://lizaalert.org/article.asp?sf=1&sfp=3&id=43> (last visited June 29, 2016).

An initial report about a missing child can be also filed online by filling out a special form on the websites of NeDopusti! ([www.nedopusti.ru](http://www.nedopusti.ru)); the National Monitoring Center for Missing and Exploited Children ([www.findchild.ru](http://www.findchild.ru)); Search for Missing Children ([www.poiskdetei.ru](http://www.poiskdetei.ru)); and Liza Alert ([www.lizaalert.org](http://www.lizaalert.org)).

### Investigation of Missing Child Cases

Russian legislation mandates immediate investigation of a missing person case, regardless of time limitation and place of disappearance, the presence or absence of information about the missing person's place of residence or stay, complete personal data and photographs of the missing person, and information about previous cases of the disappearance of the missing person.<sup>53</sup> Internal law enforcement guidelines and policies explain how to proceed when a missing person case is reported to police including registering a message about the missing person in a Book of Record by a duty officer, informing the officers of the Investigative Committee about the case, determining the composition of an investigation and operational team and sending the team to the place where the disappearance occurred, initiating a criminal case and its further investigation, developing a plan of action in case runaways or lost minors are brought to a police department, and cooperating with INTERPOL.<sup>54</sup>

When a search for a missing child takes place in hard-to-reach areas (*i.e.*, forests, rural areas, bodies of water), the police engage the Ministry of Emergency Situations.<sup>55</sup> Legislation does not stipulate the Ministry's participation in the search, nor are their formal agreements in place between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

The National Monitoring Center for Missing and Exploited Children and NeDopusti! assist law enforcement in the search for missing children.<sup>56</sup> The Ministry of Internal Affairs has not yet concluded any formal agreements with either organization to outline cooperation and responsibilities, and to avoid duplication of efforts.<sup>57</sup>

Volunteer search-and-rescue squads take an active role in searching for missing children by creating and distributing posters in neighborhoods, disseminating information about a missing child in the

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<sup>53</sup> Clause 3 of the Instruction on Examining Statements, Reports and Other Information on Incidents related to missing persons, approved by the Order of the Ministry of Interior of Russia No. 38, General Prosecutor's Office of Russia No. 14, the Investigative Committee of Russia No. 5 of 16 January 2015, at [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_176970/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_176970/) (last visited June 29, 2016) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children); Article 1 Clause 2 of the Federal Law No. 3-FZ On Police of 2011, at [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_110165/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_110165/) (last visited June 28, 2016); Mikhail Falaleev, *Loved ones disappear suddenly. You do not have to wait for three days in order to report a person missing* (Nov. 30, 2010), ROSSIJSKAYA GAZETA, at <http://www.rg.ru/2010/11/30/notfound.html> (last visited June 29, 2016); Ekaterina Dobrikova, *Attention: investigation!* (May 28, 2015) GARANT, at <http://www.garant.ru/article/627695/> (last visited June 29, 2016).

<sup>54</sup> The Instruction on Examining Statements, Reports and Other Information on Incidents related to missing persons, *supra* note 425; The Instruction on Receiving, Registering and Resolving Statements and Reports on Crimes, Administrative Violations and Incidents by territorial bodies of the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation, *supra* note 421; The Instruction on Organizing Activity of Juvenile Affairs Divisions of Internal Affairs Agencies of the Russian Federation approved by the Order of the Ministry of Interior of Russia No. 845 of 15 October 2013, at [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_158962/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_158962/) (last visited June 30, 2016) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children); The Instruction on Organization of Informational Cooperation with INTERPOL approved by the Order of the Ministry of Interior of Russia No. 786, Ministry of Justice of Russia No. 310, Russian Federal Security Service No. 470, Federal Guard Service of the Russian Federation No. 454, Federal Drug Control Service of Russia No. 333, Federal Customs Service of Russia No. 971 of 6 October 2006, at [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_63834/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_63834/) (last visited June 30, 2016) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

<sup>55</sup> Sasha Sheveleva, *The Head of "Liza Alert" Grigory Sergeev – on how they search for missing persons* (Dec. 5, 2014), THE VILLAGE, at <http://www.the-village.ru/village/city/city-news/171497-liza-alert> (last visited June 30, 2016).

<sup>56</sup> National Monitoring Center for Missing and Exploited Children, *About the Center*, *supra* note 396; NeDopusti!, *About Project*, *supra* note 394.

<sup>57</sup> This information was confirmed by "NeDopusti!" during online meeting (April 11, 2016).



media, and scouring the area using special equipment.<sup>58</sup> Search-and-rescue squads hold meetings with law enforcement officials to discuss how to respond and cooperate when information is provided about a missing child.<sup>59</sup> The roles and responsibilities of volunteer organizations in the search for missing persons are outlined in the Methodical Recommendations on Cooperation between Territorial Authorities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Volunteer Organizations and Social Movements on the Search for Missing Persons at the Regional and District Levels.<sup>60</sup>

As previously mentioned, Court Marshals are mandated by law to search for missing children in cases of family abductions, and as part of initiated enforcement proceedings.<sup>61</sup> Their search activities, as part of the enforcement proceedings, are regulated by the Methodical Recommendations on Organizing and Conducting Searches as Part of Enforcement Proceedings by the Federal Service of Court Marshals of 17 April 2014. Private detectives, along with Court Marshals, also may conduct searches for missing children in cases of family abductions.<sup>62</sup> On 25 January 2016, the National Monitoring Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Federal Service of Court Marshals concluded a formal agreement to make the search for missing children as part of enforcement proceedings more effective.<sup>63</sup>

### National Database

ICMEC's research did not identify a national database in place dedicated to missing children that can be accessed by law enforcement across different regions. Information about a missing child case, such as who is in charge of the investigation, results of an investigation, information about a missing child, and other relevant data is entered into the Book of Record of reports on crimes, administrative violations, and accidents.<sup>64</sup> Information is entered in handwritten form, rather than in a digitized format.<sup>65</sup> It is unclear whether the Federal Service of Court Marshals has such a database to help track key information about children missing as a result of a family abduction.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs manages a national missing persons database containing information that may be useful for identification purposes; the information in this database is not yet available in electronic format.<sup>66</sup> The Main Information Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs maintains a

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<sup>58</sup> See e.g., Association of Volunteer Organizations "Search for Missing Children", *How are searches carried out?*, at [www.en.poiskdetei.ru](http://www.en.poiskdetei.ru) (last visited June 30, 2016).

<sup>59</sup> Search-and-rescue squad "Liza Alert", *The first working meeting with the Ministry of Interior of Russia* (Jan. 18, 2012), at <http://lizaalert.org/article.aspx?sf=1&sfp=3&id=21> (last visited June 30, 2016); Search-and-rescue squad "Liza Alert", *The second working meeting with the Ministry of Interior of Russia* (Feb. 1, 2012), at <http://lizaalert.org/article.aspx?sf=1&sfp=3&id=14> (last visited June 30, 2016); Information Agency Association of Volunteers "Search for Missing Children", *A meeting between employees of the Ministry of Interior and volunteers took place in Yekaterinburg* (Dec. 23, 2011), at <http://www.poiskdetei.info/465-v-ekaterinburge-proshla-vstrecha-sotrudnikov-mvd-i-volonterov.html> (last visited March 21, 2016).

<sup>60</sup> Methodical Recommendations on Cooperation between Territorial Authorities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and Volunteer Organizations and Social Movements on the Search for Missing Persons at the Regional and District Levels, at [http://findchild.ru/upload/method\\_volunteer.pdf](http://findchild.ru/upload/method_volunteer.pdf) (last visited June 30, 2016).

<sup>61</sup> Article 65 Clauses 1, 1.2 and 4 of the Federal Law No. 229-FZ On Enforcement Proceedings of 2007, *supra* note 410.

<sup>62</sup> Article 3 Clause 8 of Law No. 2487-1 On Private detective and security guard activities in the Russian Federation of 11 March 1992, at [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_385/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_385/) (last visited June 30, 2016).

<sup>63</sup> Agreement on Cooperation between the Federal Service of Court Marshals and the Association of organizations and citizens for assisting missing and exploited children "National Monitoring Center for Missing and Exploited Children" (executed in Moscow on 25 January 2016 No. 0014/1), at [http://fssprus.ru/files/fssp/db/files/OOnpa2016/sogl\\_mv\\_0014\\_1\\_20162151352.pdf](http://fssprus.ru/files/fssp/db/files/OOnpa2016/sogl_mv_0014_1_20162151352.pdf) (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>64</sup> The Instruction on Receiving, Registering and Resolving Statements and Reports on Crimes, Administrative Violations and Incidents by territorial bodies of the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation, *supra* note 421.

<sup>65</sup> *Id.*

<sup>66</sup> Mikhail Falaleev, *supra* note 425. See also Elena Timoshkina, *Missing children: True stories* (Oct. 21, 2015), PRAVDA, at [http://www.pravda.ru/society/family/21-10-2015/1278926-wanted\\_children-0/](http://www.pravda.ru/society/family/21-10-2015/1278926-wanted_children-0/) (last visited July 5, 2016).

centralized recording of information of criminal offenses.<sup>67</sup> The Federal Tax Service plans to create a national registry containing official records of births, deaths, marriages, and other vital records of the entire population of Russia.<sup>68</sup> According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a national fingerprints database is coming soon,<sup>69</sup> which will help police instantly check the fingerprints of criminals in all regions, without leaving the workplace.<sup>70</sup> Currently, the Main Information Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs maintains a centralized recording of fingerprint data.<sup>71</sup>

While Russian legislation provides for the creation of a national DNA database containing DNA information on unidentified remains, unidentified persons, criminals charged with grave and extremely grave offenses, as well as persons who voluntarily decided to share their DNA,<sup>72</sup> such a database was established only in the city of Moscow.<sup>73</sup>

In 2014, the Ministry of Emergency Situations created an online service called “Meeting Place – Ministry of Emergency Situations,” which helps find people who are lost in times of natural disasters or other emergencies.<sup>74</sup> However, this service is no longer on the Ministry’s website.<sup>75</sup>

At the end of May 2015, the Children’s Rights Ombudsman suggested the creation of a national registry of criminals who have attempted or committed crimes against children, to be maintained by the National Monitoring Center for Missing and Exploited Children.<sup>76</sup> This database has not yet been established.<sup>77</sup>

### Case Management System

NeDopusti! has a case management system to document missing children cases in Russia.<sup>78</sup> Information on the missing child is entered into the database after a report has been filed with police.<sup>79</sup> The database is publicly available through NeDopusti!’s website.

### Alert Mechanism

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<sup>67</sup> Forum of the Police Magazine, *On criminal record, finger prints and data bases of the Ministry of Interior* (Jan. 16, 2013), POLICE MAGAZINE, at <http://policemagazine.ru/forum/showthread.php?t=6229> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>68</sup> Tatiana, Zykova, *Who was born, who got married* (Feb. 12, 2016), ROSSIJSKAYA GAZETA, at <http://www.rg.ru/2016/02/12/fns-pri-pomoshchi-zagsov-sozdast-edinyj-reestr-informacii.html> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>69</sup> *Id.*

<sup>69</sup> Sergey Pyatakov, *A national fingerprints database of the Ministry of Interior will be launched in Russia soon* (Aug. 5, 2013), RIA NOVOSTI, at <http://ria.ru/incidents/20130805/954293373.html#ixzz3ywyApRFB> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>70</sup> *Id.*

<sup>71</sup> The Main Information Center of the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation, at [https://mvd.ru/mvd/structure1/Centri/Glavnij\\_informacionno\\_analiticheskij\\_cen](https://mvd.ru/mvd/structure1/Centri/Glavnij_informacionno_analiticheskij_cen) (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>72</sup> Article 11 of the Federal Law No. 242-FZ “On the state genome registration in the Russian Federation” of 3 December 2008, at [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_82263/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_82263/) (last visited July 5, 2016) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

<sup>73</sup> Comment by ROCIT and NeDopusti! during online meeting (April 11, 2016).

<sup>74</sup> Yulia Fursova, *“Meeting Place – Ministry of Emergency Situations” will find people lost in times of emergency* (Sept. 9, 2014), NEWSBARR.COM, at <http://newsbarr.com/?!IDE=128534> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>75</sup> Comment by “NeDopusti!” during online meeting (April 11, 2016).

<sup>76</sup> Anastasia Kashevarova and Alena Sivkova, *A national registry of criminals committed crimes against children will be created in Russia* (May 26, 2015), Izvestia, at <http://izvestia.ru/news/586926> (last visited March 18, 2016).

<sup>77</sup> Comment by “NeDopusti!” during online meeting (April 11, 2016).

<sup>78</sup> ROCIT via the Center for child’s safety “NeDopusti!” will organize official events for the International Missing Children’s Day (25 March 2013), RAEC, at <http://raec.ru/times/detail/2419/> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>79</sup> Comment by “NeDopusti!” during online meeting (April 11, 2016).

Russia does not yet have a centralized rapid emergency child alert system. Meanwhile, several steps have been taken by government authorities, NeDopusti!, Search for Missing Children, and Liza Alert, which could lead to the future creation of an emergency child alert system.

In 2014, NeDopusti! created the first and only e-alert system in Russia notifying Internet users about a missing child.<sup>80</sup> This e-alert system is intended to help volunteer organizations attract more volunteers during searches. A key element of the system is the automatic generation of online banners.<sup>81</sup> Banners with basic data on the missing child are placed on partner websites and periodically alternate depending on relevance.<sup>82</sup> The e-alert system eventually will be extended to outdoor billboards and a number of electronic media.<sup>83</sup>

In 2015, the Ministry of Emergency Situations supported an initiative of the Investigative Committee to post information about missing children on information screens of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, as well as to employ other technical devices and new information technologies for an integrated system of emergency information within the Ministry of Emergency Situations.<sup>84</sup> The head of the Investigative Committee signed decree No. 61 on 7 July 2015.<sup>85</sup> Since that time, the screens have been used once in Moscow:<sup>86</sup> in April 2016, monitors on Moscow roads broadcasted information about a missing child (*i.e.*, age, description, photograph, contact phone number 112).<sup>87</sup>

In May 2014, at the request of Mayor Sergei Sobyenin, a mobile phone and desktop computer electronic polling system – Active Citizen – was launched in Moscow to help engage Muscovites by allowing them to vote on issues of city governance.<sup>88</sup> In January 2015, Liza Alert launched the Find Me ([findme.mos.ru](http://findme.mos.ru)) app, in cooperation with the Moscow City Government, to publish information about missing people and make the information accessible to a large audience through the Active Citizen system.<sup>89</sup> The system, which works only in Moscow, allows a message about a missing child to be sent to all registered users of “Active Citizen” (currently more than 350,000 people).<sup>90</sup> The message allows a user to select the option “ready to participate in a search operation,” in which case volunteers will contact the user with more information.<sup>91</sup> In the future, “Active Citizen” will show information about missing persons on appointment booking kiosks in 1,640 hospitals around Moscow and on the

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<sup>80</sup> The e-Alert system first began operation on 27 January 2014. An updated e-Alert is planned to be launched as part of a new Global Child Alert System in late August 2016.

<sup>81</sup> *An e-alert system for missing children appeared in Russia* (Feb. 10, 2014), GARANT, at <http://www.garant.ru/news/524663/#ixzz3yqjSpnF> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>82</sup> *Id.*

<sup>83</sup> *It was the International Missing Children’s Day on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May* (May 25, 2014), at <http://nedopusti.ru/inform/read/1213/> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>84</sup> *The Investigative Committee of Russia held an extended meeting of the panel to discuss work results for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of 2015*, at <http://sledcom.ru/news/item/950225> (last visited March 20, 2016); *Id.*, the Decree is titled “On the use of the integrated system of informing and alerting population in crowded areas within the Ministry of Emergency Situations by the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation to assist in searching for missing minors” (the Decree is not available to the public).

<sup>85</sup> *Id.*

<sup>86</sup> Comment by ROCIT and NeDopusti! during online meeting (April 11, 2016).

<sup>87</sup> Olga Vorobieva, *Traffick monitors in Moscow started broadcasting information about missing children* (April 6, 2016), AGENCY OF SOCIAL INFORMATION, at <http://www.asi.org.ru/news/122965/> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>88</sup> Moscow City Government, *250 city governance decisions have been taken thanks to the Active Citizen app* (May 19 2015), at [http://www.old.mos.ru/en/items-tag/index.php?id\\_14=32178](http://www.old.mos.ru/en/items-tag/index.php?id_14=32178) (last visited August 11, 2016) (on file with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children).

<sup>89</sup> Ekaterina Fomina, *“Liza Alert” goes online* (Sept. 24, 2014), NOVAYA GAZETA, at <http://www.novayagazeta.ru/society/65413.html> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>90</sup> *Id.*

<sup>91</sup> *Id.*

websites of Moscow City Authorities.<sup>92</sup> In addition, Liza Alert volunteers can subscribe to emergency messages about the beginning of active searches.<sup>93</sup>

In 2016, Uber and Search for Missing Children started a joint project in Moscow in which Uber drivers place photos of missing children on their cars.<sup>94</sup> Anyone who sees a car with a photo of a missing child can take a picture of it and disseminate it on social networks with hashtags #uberpoisk and #найтидетей (findchildren).<sup>95</sup> Search for Missing Children also has begun to develop a free electronic system – “Bagheera” – to allow parents to monitor the location of their children and find out immediately if they are in danger. This system would increase the efficiency and scope of searches for a missing child through instant dissemination of the child’s information, and organization and coordination of searches through a specialized social network of volunteers.<sup>96</sup> The system will take six months to launch once the necessary funding has been raised.<sup>97</sup>

In addition to the above initiatives, Liza Alert and Search for Missing Children help law enforcement inform mass media about missing children and disseminate information among Internet users.<sup>98</sup>

### Awareness-Raising Initiatives

NeDopusti! organizes events on 25 May – International Missing Children’s Day to raise awareness of the threat of child abduction and to educate families about child safety.<sup>99</sup> NeDopusti! also publishes handbooks, illustrated brochures, booklets, and books for children, teenagers, parents, teachers, and social workers on child online safety to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation online and tips for preventing them from going missing.<sup>100</sup> NeDopusti! holds public events for the same key audiences and advanced training programs for social workers, child psychologists, and law enforcement.<sup>101</sup>

Liza Alert and Search for Missing Children are actively involved in educational and awareness campaigns including lectures and training programs dedicated to the issue of child safety and delivered to children and parents throughout schools in Russia.<sup>102</sup> Both organizations have created videos about missing children that are available online; one of the videos is aired on the main Russian

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<sup>92</sup> *Id.*

<sup>93</sup> Search-and-Rescue squad “Liza Alert”, *Subscription to emergency messages*, at <http://lizaalert.org/smsme.asp> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>94</sup> Evgeniya T., *Uber and “Search for Missing Children” launch a joint project* (April 16, 2016), at <https://newsroom.uber.com/russia/uberpoisk/> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>95</sup> *Id.*

<sup>96</sup> Electronic system of child safety and search for missing “Bagheera”, at <https://poiskdetei.ru/campaign/e-system/> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>97</sup> Comment by the Association of Volunteer Organizations “Search for Missing Children” (Poisk Detei) during online meeting (April 11, 2016).

<sup>98</sup> Elena Timoshkina, *Missing children: True stories*, *supra* note 438; Association of Volunteer Organizations “Search for Missing Children”, *About Us*, at <https://poiskdetei.ru/> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>99</sup> NeDopusti!, *About Project*, *supra* note 394.

<sup>100</sup> 25 October. A panel discussion “Protecting and assisting child victims of crimes: practical development online and offline”, *supra* note 20; See also NeDopusti!, *Articles and Publications*, *supra* note 20.

<sup>101</sup> 25 October. A panel discussion “Protecting and assisting child victims of crimes: practical development online and offline”, *supra* note 20.

<sup>102</sup> Maria Parvatova, *Volunteers from “Dobrospas” organized the day of safe adventures* (Jan. 15, 2016), at <https://poiskdetei.ru/volontery-dobrospasa-proveli-den-bezopasnyx-prikllyuchenij/> (last visited July 5, 2016); “Dobrospas-Novosibirsk” continues the series of safety lessons (Feb. 27, 2016), at <https://poiskdetei.ru/dobrospas-novosibirsk-prodolzhaet-seriyu-urokov-po-bezopasnosti/> (last visited July 5, 2016); Search-and-rescue squad “Liza Alert”, *Lectures for children and their parents*, at <http://lizaalert.org/article.aspx?sf=1&sfp=3&id=26&m=1> (last visited July 5, 2016); Search-and-rescue squad “Liza Alert”, *Safety campaign*, at <http://lizaalert.org/article.aspx?sf=1&sfp=3&id=41&m=1> (last visited July 5, 2016).

music channels.<sup>103</sup> Liza Alert also organizes exhibitions in different regions of Russia devoted to the issue of missing children, depicting the real stories and photos of missing children.<sup>104</sup>

Russian police actively participate in “Child Safety Month” each September, during which they hold lectures and conversations with minors explaining how to behave with strangers and what to do if they become lost.<sup>105</sup>

Government authorities together with NGOs and volunteer search squads periodically organize panel discussions focused on issues related to the search for missing children, protection and rehabilitation of missing children, cooperation between law enforcement and volunteer search squads, and child runaway prevention.<sup>106</sup>

### Trafficking

Article 127.1, parts 1 and 2(b), of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation No. 63-FZ of 13 June 1996 prohibit the sale of children (sale and purchase, and any other transactions with children). The same Article (parts 1 and 2(b)) prohibits recruiting, transferring, delivering, harboring, and accepting a child for the purposes of his or her subsequent exploitation, including sexual exploitation. Article 127.1 of the Criminal Code also covers the sale of children for the purposes of transfer of organs of the child,<sup>107</sup> and their subsequent exploitation in forced labor.<sup>108</sup>

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<sup>103</sup> Association of Volunteer Organizations “Search for Missing Children”, *With celebrities*, at <https://poiskdetei.ru/so-zvezdami/> (last visited July 5, 2016); *In memory of missing children*, at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=113&v=I\\_hjcv9BpGg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=113&v=I_hjcv9BpGg) (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>104</sup> Volunteers from “Liza Alert” organized a campaign on the International Child Protection Day at the Exhibition of Economic Achievements (VDNKh) (June 1, 2015), at <http://www.rfdeti.ru/news/9884-volontery-liza-alert-provodyat-akciyu-na-vdnh-v-mezhdunarodny-den-zaschity-detey> (last visited July 5, 2016); Alia Sharafutdinova, *Lost and found. Stories of children in photographs made by “Liza Alert”* (Jan. 31, 2014), AIF, at <http://www.kazan.aif.ru/society/1094991> (last visited July 5, 2016); “Beeline” became a partner of the exhibition “Small details” (May 24, 2013), CONTENT REVIEW, at <http://www.content-review.com/articles/23134/> (last visited July 5, 2016).

<sup>105</sup> Students visited police officers as part of “Child Safety Month” (Sept. 15, 2011), at <https://59.mvd.ru/news/item/681865/> (last visited July 5, 2016); Police personnel hold events as part of “Child Safety Month” in Kungura (Sept. 20, 2013), at <http://mvdru.ru/news/print/171650-v-kungure-sotrudniki-politsii.html> (last visited July 6, 2016); Police to parents: take care of children (Aug. 30, 2012), at <http://mvdru.ru/news/18761-politsiya-roditelyam-beregite-detey.html> (last visited July 6, 2016).

<sup>106</sup> Pavel Astakhov: there is no country that did not face the problem of missing children (Jan. 12, 2015), at <http://www.rfdeti.ru/display.php?id=10623> (last visited July 6, 2016); Panel discussion “Search, protection and rehabilitation of missing and exploited children in an age of information society”, at <http://www.saferunet.org/expert/events/3107/> (last visited July 6, 2016); A panel discussion dedicated to the search for missing children was held in Ivanonvskaya Oblast (Feb. 28, 2012), at <http://www.rfdeti.ru/display.php?id=4836> (last visited July 6, 2016); A panel discussion in Tver (Feb. 3, 2012), Information agency Association of Volunteers “Search for Missing Children”, at <http://www.poiskdetei.info/523-kruglyy-stol-v-tveri.html> (last visited July 6, 2016).

<sup>107</sup> Article 127.1 parts 2(b) and 2(zh) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, at [http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons\\_doc\\_LAW\\_10699/](http://www.consultant.ru/document/cons_doc_LAW_10699/) (last visited June 28, 2016).

<sup>108</sup> Art. 127.1 pt. 1 of the Criminal Code prohibits transfer, delivering and accepting children for the purpose of their exploitation. The Criminal Code defines exploitation as sexual exploitation, forced labor, and servitude.