

## Office of Chief Medical Examiner to host support event for families and friends of missing persons on Saturday, May 20, 2017

**What:** New York City Missing Persons Day connects New Yorkers with resources and support to help identify and find their missing loved ones. Families and friends of long-term missing persons (missing for more than 60 days) may participate in interviews with experts and provide information that can help make identifications. Emotional support services are also available to all attendees.

All families and friends of long-term missing persons are welcome. Attendees wishing to be interviewed are strongly encouraged to make an appointment by calling (212) 323-1201. Providing information is voluntary and used only for identification purposes. Interpretation services are available.

When: Saturday, May 20, 2017 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) – Hirsch Building 421 East 26th Street (at 1st Avenue) New York, NY 10016 Subway: 6 train to 33rd Street; Bus: M15, M34 This facility is accessible. Accommodation requests are appreciated in advance.

**Why:** More than 13,000 people were reported missing in New York City last year, with many, including at least 200 children, missing long term. Nationwide, there are more than 87,000 active missing persons cases, and thousands of unidentified persons in the custody of medical examiner's offices, without information entered into national identification databases. New York City Missing Persons Day lets loved ones share information, such as photos, histories, and DNA samples, that can help identify and find those who went missing in New York City, and other jurisdictions.

Now in its third year, New York City Missing Persons Day has served hundreds of families, and is credited with leading to seven identifications of missing persons in the New York metropolitan area since its launch in 2014.

**Who:** Hosted by OCME, in partnership with the NYPD Missing Persons Unit, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYC Office of Emergency Management, American Red Cross, Disaster Chaplaincy Services, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), and the Center for Hope, with support from the National Institute of Justice.

For more information, please visit nyc.gov/missingpersonsday, or call (212) 323-1201.