



Kidnapping alert

Elmar is enjoying a plate of spaghetti when he sees a man pulling his 10-year-old neighbour Laura, screaming and obviously against her will, into a grey car. He calls the police immediately on 117.

The police trigger a kidnapping alert

It is now up to the **cantonal police** to act. To locate Laura as quickly as possible, the police can trigger a kidnapping alert if:

they have **tangible evidence** or **reasonable grounds** for **suspecting** that a person has been kidnapped,



they believe there is a **grave risk of harm** to the victim's physical or mental health, and



they have **sufficient descriptive information** suggesting the victim or the kidnapper can be found.

fedpol alerts its partners and activates a call centre

Once the cantonal police trigger an alert, an emergency message goes out that Laura has been kidnapped. fedpol assumes the role of transmitting the message on behalf of the cantonal police and with the help of various partner organisations.

The alert is broadcast across Switzerland via:

- **Alertswiss (app and website)**
- national and international police networks
- websites of the cantonal police services and fedpol
- online media
- TV
- radio
- information boards at railway stations, airports, shopping centres and on motorways

At the same time the alert is broadcast, fedpol activates a call centre to receive information about Laura's kidnapping from the public. fedpol also facilitates cooperation between the cantonal police responsible for the case and its counterparts in Switzerland and abroad.

The alert is broadcast for three hours

If the victim or kidnapper is not found in that time, the alert is stopped.

This does not mean that the search for Laura is over. The cantonal police responsible for the case continue with their inquiries and receive new information all the time. Depending on how their inquiries proceed, they may decide to extend the duration of the alert.

The first few hours are critical

When a child, woman or man is kidnapped, it is crucial to act as fast as possible. **The first few hours are critical** to the success of finding the victim.



You can help too. The Alertswiss app is free of charge.

Alert messages are marked with this special symbol.

[Alertswiss App:](#)

Scan the QR code and
download the app now!



A partnership between the Confederation and the cantons

The kidnapping alert is a partnership between the Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP) and the Conference of Cantonal Justice and Police Directors (CCJPD).



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Justice and Police
Federal Office of Police fedpol



Konferenz der Kantonalen Justiz- und Polizeidirektorinnen und -direktoren
Conférence des directrices et directeurs des départements cantonaux de justice et police
Conferenza delle direttrici e dei direttori dei dipartimenti cantonali di giustizia e polizia