



# Running Away: The Warning Signs

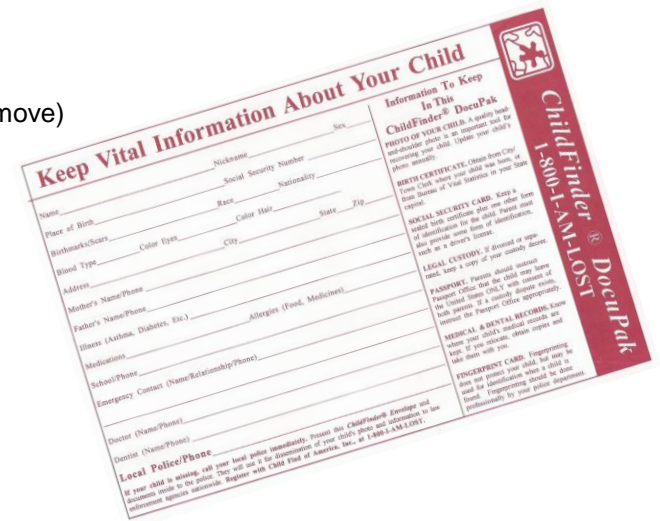
There are warning signs that may indicate a child may be thinking about running away from home. Pay attention to these behavior changes:

*He, She, or They...*

- ... talks about running away, running away with friends, or discusses friends who have run away.
- ... begins to withdraw more and becomes isolated from family and friends.
- ... exhibits a sudden and abnormal change in mood or behavior, including depression or anxiety.
- ... has experienced a recent family crisis which might trigger feelings of wanting to. These include divorce, remarriage, alcoholism, drug abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and incarceration.
- ... begins exhibiting rebellious behavior and rule breaking increases.
- ... begins having problems in school, including truancy, a lack of interest in school work, and a sudden drop in grades.
- ... begins to accumulate money and possessions.

## Why do kids leave home?

- 42% because of family problems (extended family, siblings, divorce, death, custody, poverty, move)
  - 14% because of school/peer pressure
  - 5% because of alcohol/drug abuse
  - 4% because of physical abuse
- (Source: the National Runaway Switchboard)*



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