

SD CHIP

South Dakota Child Identification Program

What is CHIP?

CHIP is a comprehensive **CH**ild **I**dentification **P**rogram designed to give families a measure of protection against the ever-increasing problem of missing children. The Grand Lodge of South Dakota, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, in cooperation with the South Dakota Sheriffs Association and the South Dakota Dental Association, are in the process of bringing this fine program to communities throughout South Dakota.

In the weeks ahead, the South Dakota Grand Lodge of Masons will be working with the South Dakota Masonic family and in cooperation with other sponsoring agencies to develop a consistent and successful **CHIP** organization as part of our ongoing commitment to children and families. This program will be brought free of charge to every South Dakota family who wishes to participate.

How does CHIP work?

The program consists of five major components:

- A brief videotaped interview
- Fingerprinting
- Dental bite imprint (ToothPrintsü)
DNA Cheek Swab
- A digital still photograph

The videotape is a recovery tool that provides for more individual characteristics and mannerisms than a still photograph. Fingerprinting is a tried and true method of individual identification. The dental bite impression (ToothPrints®) provides an impression of the biting surface of teeth, which, like fingerprints, are unique to each individual. The dental impression also collects enough saliva to provide DNA and a source for scent in canine recovery. The cheek swab provides an additional source of DNA and is recommended to be kept in the freezer for optimal preservation. The digital photograph is also a valuable recovery tool that can be used for purposes of Amber Alerts. Together, these five measures provide a very powerful identification and recovery tool.

How can you help?

The success of **CHIP** depends on its consistent availability throughout every community in the state. The South Dakota Grand Lodge of Masons and the Masonic Family will be encouraged to establish, organize and coordinate the event, on-site registration, interview, videotape, digital photograph and preparation and distribution of the **CHIP** package to the parents. A Dental Professional will be responsible for the ToothPrints® and cheek swabs, placing them in sealed packages and providing a general introduction to the dental profession. A Law Enforcement Officer will be responsible for finger printing and general introduction to the law enforcement profession. There are many opportunities in the schools, at community functions and at specific **CHIP** oriented events to make the service available.

CHIP is an evolving program and is open to your suggestions. Any suggestion for changes or enhancements of **CHIP** should be forwarded to the **CHIP** coordinator through the Grand Lodge of South Dakota.