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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free DNA Kits available at the Sarpy/Cass Department of Health and Wellness

Safe Kids Sarpy/Cass urges parents to complete a DNA kit in case of abduction.

Papillion, NE-About 2,100 missing-children reports are filed each day. Many cases might be solved more easily if parents can provide a few key pieces of information. DNA kits provide DNA information as well as height, weight, eye color, and recent photo. These DNA kits can be a great help to authorities solve a missing child case.

Safe Kids Sarpy/Cass as part of the Sarpy/Cass Department of Health and wellness is offering free DNA kits to parents in Sarpy and Cass Counties. To pick up a DNA kit, simply stop by the Sarpy/Cass Department of Health and Wellness, 701 Olson Drive, Papillion, NE anytime during normal business hours. Please call 402-339-4334, ext. 210.

It is also important for you and your child to know important safety information that could help prevent abduction. Keeping your child safe in a world of strangers can be as easy as following a few safety strategies which include:

- Complete a DNA kit for each child and keep it in the freezer.
- Keep your child's medical and dental records up to date.
- Make sure custody documents are in order.
- Make online safety a priority. The Internet is a great tool, but it can also be where predators stalk children. Be aware of your child's Internet activities and chat room "friends," and remind them never to give out personal information. Adults should avoid posting identifying information or photos of children online.
- Supervise your children in places like malls, movie theaters, parks, public bathrooms, or while fundraising door to door. Never leave kids alone in a car or stroller, even for a minute. Set boundaries of where your children are allowed to go.
- Teach your children to never accept candy or gifts from a stranger and never go anywhere with a stranger, even if it sounds like fun. If a stranger asks them a question, teach your child to not talk, but to just run away.
- Teach your child to say no to anyone who tries to make them do something you've said is wrong or touch them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Teach your child that you would never send a stranger to pick them up, because you know that they would never talk to or go with a stranger.

For more information about Stranger Danger, call Safe Kids Sarpy/Cass at 402-339-4334 ext. 210 or visit http://www.sarpycasshealthdepartment.org/safe_kids.html.

Safe Kids Sarpy/Cass works to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability to children under the age of 14. Safe Kids Sarpy/Cass is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide and Safe Kids Nebraska (global and statewide networks of organizations dedicated to preventing unintentional injury). Safe Kids Sarpy/Cass was founded in 2006 and is led by The Sarpy/Cass Department of Health and Wellness.

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