

Family separation & reunification

ACTION CHECKLIST

Stay in a safe place, try the agreed contact and meeting plan, and record the missing person's last confirmed location and time. Keep children with a trusted caregiver. Use verified Red Cross or humanitarian family-tracing channels if available. Do not publish sensitive personal details or enter danger to search.

[] Record facts

Write the last confirmed contact, location, time, description and medical needs. Distinguish what you know from rumours. Keep a recent photo privately if available.

[] Try agreed channels

Send a short text to the person and the out-of-area contact. Leave your own location and next check-in time. A sent message may not be delivered.

[] Use the safe meeting plan

Go to the meeting point only if the route and location are safe. Do not send several people independently into a hazardous area.

[] Verify tracing services

Use independently found Red Cross or humanitarian contacts. Check the organisation rather than trusting a forwarded number, and ask how information will be protected.

[] Protect children

Never hand a child to an unverified adult promising reunification. Keep a written contact card and involve a trusted caregiver or verified protection service.

WATCH FOR

Scammers may demand money or identity documents. Do not post full identity numbers, sensitive addresses or real-time movements publicly.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

If networks fail, follow the written reunion plan only where safe and leave a message with the agreed trusted contact. Keep your own location predictable rather than repeatedly moving between unsafe places.

Updated 2026-10-02 | Civilian educational guidance. Seek qualified help when reachable and safe; do not delay immediate protective action.

Full guide: <https://ospreyzero.com/emergencies/family-reunification/>

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