

RESOLUTION

(Adopted by the 1987 convention delegates)

REVIEW OF CHILD IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS

- WHEREAS, Misinformation and noninformation abound in child identification programs because they too often focus on stranger abduction and exploitation; and
- WHEREAS, Parents need to be aware that acquaintances, not strangers, commit most abductions and sex crimes against children; and
- WHEREAS, Schools need to be aware that a thumbprint is useless to law enforcement in locating missing children and that only a complete set of ten fingerprints on an official FBI card will assist in the recovery of a missing child, as recommended in the 1983 National PTA resolution "Child Fingerprinting Identification"; and
- WHEREAS, Most commercial child identification systems fail to include court records and custody orders which are necessary for prompt recovery in family abduction cases; and
- WHEREAS, Careful screening of commercial child identification systems can both prevent nationwide paranoia about danger from strangers and lead to a greater awareness of the facts of parental abductions and the consequences of running away, therefore be it
- Resolved, That the National PTA urge state and local PTAs/PTSAs to review child identification systems which emphasize the danger of stranger abductions; and be it further
- Resolved, That the National PTA encourage local PTAs to contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for technical assistance and review of materials which may be exploiting the issue of missing children.