



Federal Bureau of Investigation
Criminal Investigative Division
Violent Crimes Against Children Section
Child Exploitation Operational Unit

Endangered Child Alert Program

Overview:

The FBI began its Endangered Child Alert Program (ECAP) on February 21, 2004, as a new proactive approach to identifying unknown individuals involved in the sexual abuse of children and the production of child pornography.

How it works:

As a collaborative effort between the FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, ECAP seeks national and international exposure of unknown adults (referred to as John/Jane Does) whose faces and/or distinguishing characteristics are visible in child pornography images. These faces and/or distinguishing marks (i.e. scars, moles, tattoos, etc.) are displayed on the [Seeking Information section of the FBI website](#) as well as in various other media outlets, in hopes that someone from the public is able to provide information that can identify them.

As a result of ECAP, the faces of many Jane/John Does have been broadcast on television shows such as *America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, and *the O'Reilly Factor*. Of particular significance in these cases is the fact that for the first time, the Innocent Images program was able to obtain "John Doe" arrest warrants for several of its early John/Jane Does based solely on images acquired through undercover investigations.

Overall Success:

Since the inception of ECAP, 49 John/Jane Does have been investigated, 36 of which have been successfully identified. These investigations have led to the identification of over 50 child victims. To help locate current suspects, see the [Endangered Child Alert Program Most Wanted webpage](#).