



Operation Rescue Me

Overview:

Operation Rescue Me (ORM) represents the FBI's victim identification program. ORM is described as an aggressive initiative focusing on determining the identity of child victim(s) depicted in child exploitation material and capturing the perpetrator. ORM works with field offices, other government agencies (including international partners), and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to locate and identify victims of crimes against children.

How it works:

Image analysis methods used by Operation Rescue Me concentrate on items seen in the backgrounds of child pornography videos or images. Analysts attempt to answer four basic questions that will hopefully lead to the identification and rescue of child victims:

- 1) What useful clues are there in the background? (What's visible on the walls, are there distinct clothes or commercial labels visible?)
- 2) Can a time frame for when the pictures were taken be determined?
- 3) What is the physical location of the children in the photos? (Country, state, hotel room, etc.)
- 4) Who are the children in the photos?

No clue is too small.

The FBI utilizes many clues to identify where a child may be held. The identification of items sold exclusively in certain areas, or at certain stores which can be seen in the background of various images has led to the successful rescue of numerous child victims. Additional techniques, such as isolating audio clips from videos to identify any names which can be heard, or even the dialect of language which is being spoken, have also led to the eventual rescue of abused children. Through the careful scrutiny of child pornography images, the FBI has been able to use clues as small as a glimpse of a vehicle's color seen in a reflection of one of its mirrors to rescue children from dangerous child predators.

Overall success:

Since inception, Operation Rescue Me has led to the identification of over 1,300 child victims. The program continues to attempt to rescue those still in need.