

LD172 TESTIMONY • FEB 3 2025

TO: JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
FROM: TAMMY LACHER SCULLY, BELFAST ME

Sen. Beebe-Center, Rep. Hasenfus & Members of the Committee: I am here to speak in support of LD 172.

The nightmare I've been living since June 6, 2022—when my disabled adult son Graham Lacher went missing from DDPC in Bangor—could be told in numbers. **974**: the number of days he's been lost to us; **72**: the number of hours experts say you have before the chances of finding a missing person go way down; **120**: the number of hours authorities waited before conducting a thorough search for my son; **ZERO**: the number of confirmed sightings we've had of Graham since he disappeared.

Members of the public are often surprised that we still haven't found him. but, as members of this committee, it probably does not surprise you. Because, as you likely know:

- there is no official ongoing search for Graham & there hasn't been since 30 days after he disappeared;
- there was never a true, systemwide alert associated with his disappearance;
- nor is there any consistent protocol for following up on possible leads when someone thinks they have seen him.

I can provide supporting details on these points if you'd like, but in brief: It took several, precious hours to get the Bangor PD to issue a Silver Alert (hours in which the public was coming home from work or going out for the evening and might have seen him). The alert, once issued, was heartbreakingly limited in scope. (It was not sent to first responders, hospital emergency departments, or any of the service providers Graham might encounter as a homeless person. And, as you know, Silver Alerts are not transmitted via the emergency alert system.) It even took me months just to get the Dept. of Public Safety to correct all of the misleading/false information contained in the Silver Alert that was issued.

The bottom line: In Maine, there is no official understanding of what to do or when to do it when someone like my son goes missing.

To make up for this, we've done everything we can think of to inform the public ourselves. Among other things: We held informational rallies in Maine's major cities; sent posters to every tagging station in Maine to alert hunters; notified every library; placed road signs throughout the state; attempted our own version of a regional alert in case he crossed state borders; asked convenience stores throughout the state to display his photo after the lottery commission took him off their screens; provided vehicle magnets to anyone willing to raise awareness that way; asked businesses to put post-it notes on customer orders & sent 1,000 postcards to all the places that should have been contacted in the first place, and, for good measure, included every state legislator, commissioner, the attorney general & the governor.

But I am here today because, after two and a half years, my son is not even listed by the Department of Public Safety on Maine's missing persons list.

Why is this important? For one thing: Despite all our efforts & the hundreds of ordinary citizens who have helped us, we are regularly asked if we are running a scam—because when people google “missing people in Maine,” Graham's name is not on the official list. If people don't know he's missing—or don't believe that he's missing—how will we ever find him? Not publicly listing our missing loved ones sends the message that Maine does not care if they are found. It also hinders researchers & journalists from measuring the scope of the problems related to missing person cases.

Our family has logged many thousands of miles and spent many thousands of dollars trying to raise public awareness. Despite our efforts, we still find that most people we encounter on our travels have not heard of my son Graham. Maine can do better by families like mine. Passing this bill, honestly, is the least that you can do.

THIS IS THE FRONT AND BACK OF A POSTCARD WE SENT TO EVERY MAINE LEGISLATOR, COMMISSIONER, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE GOVERNOR IN 2023.



STILL MISSING!

GRAHAM LACHER

5'11" 190 LBS • DOB 8/3/84
Blue Eyes • Brown Hair & Beard

LAST SEEN:
Bangor ME June 2022
NO PHONE • NO ID • POSSIBLY OUT OF STATE

VULNERABLE ADULT

Autistic/Schizophrenic • Likely Noverbal

SILVER ALERT ISSUED

Contact legal guardian @
FACEBOOK:
MISSING GRAHAM LACHER
BANGOR PD DET. JORDAN PERRY:
(207) 947-7382

CALL 911
NCIC #M396825302



WHY HASN'T GRAHAM BEEN FOUND?

Is it because Maine's system is broken?

After more than a year, there is:

- no official ongoing search;
- no true systemwide alert; and
- no consistent protocol for following up on possible leads

Graham is not listed on the state of Maine's Public Safety website as a Missing Person, the state lottery (and NOT the Maine State Police) determines whether his picture is shown on lottery screens, agencies most likely to interact with him were not notified of his disappearance (not even all police departments were alerted), and calls made to 911 may or may not be followed up on.

TO:

NEEDS
66¢
STAMP



STATE OF MAINE

Department of Public Safety

Search

Enter your keywords

Graham Lacher

SEARCH

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Your search yielded no results.

Why doesn't
Maine list
Graham as a
Missing
Person?

CONTACT:

TAMMY LACHER SCULLY at Facebook Page MISSING GRAHAM LACHER

IF YOU
DID THE
SAME
SEARCH
TODAY,
YOU
WOULD
RECEIVE
THE SAME
RESULT



STATE OF MAINE

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Missing Persons

SEARCH

About searching

Search results



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