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Kane gets child-ID system

Iris scans will be used to find missing

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Kane County Sheriff Ken Ramsey unveiled Friday new technology that he hopes will help locate and identify missing children in the blink of an eye.

The \$25,000 system, called iris recognition biometric technology, quickly takes a digital photograph of an eye.

It was acquired with the help of a Massachusetts-based organization, The CHILD Project, a new not-for-profit organization that works with the Nation's Missing Children Organization (NMCO) to create a national database for law enforcement officials.

"We're very pleased to be the first sheriff's office in the Midwest and the third in the nation to utilize this cutting-edge technology," Ramsey said.

While the iris recognition system is reportedly far more accurate and faster than fingerprints--detecting a match within seconds instead of days--it is meant to complement, not replace, fingerprinting and DNA swabbing, said Peter Flynn, senior consultant with The Project.

Iris identification is "the most accurate of the biometrics," said Philip Youn, a consultant with the International Biometric Group, an independent consulting firm that services government and private sector clients.

Other types of biometrics include fingerprint, facial recognition, hand geometry, retina-scan and voice recognition.

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