

HBO33-Criminal Procedure-Location Information-Exigent Circumstances (Kelsey Smith Act For Maryland)

February 17, 2023

I am a certified as a Wilderness Search and Rescue K9 Handler and have been participating in searches for lost persons in the state of Maryland for over 10 years. I would like to support HBO33-Criminal Procedure-Location Information-Exigent Circumstances (Kelsey Smith Act For Maryland). Rapid deployment for teams in the search of a lost person is essential in finding that individual as quickly as possible and thereby preventing the possibility of medical complications or death. An important factor in locating a missing person is deploying search teams in an area where they can actually find the person.

Cell phones can be an important factor for locating missing individual even in a wilderness areas where there may be only one tower. A cell phone ping can provide information as to when the phone was in the area and assist the Incident command in deploying search teams to a focused area. Even if the cell phone dies important information such as probability of area can be derived before the phone went dead.

This information could significantly decrease the amount of time spent on creating a strategic plan and assigning tasks to search teams as well as decrease the amount of time between search teams arrival on scene and deployment to search, thereby increasing the probability of success.

Respectfully,

Claudia Weakland

K-9 Handler

President, Board of Directors, Western Maryland K9- Search and Rescue Inc.