This general process can vary based on state/local area and disaster circumstances. ¹

IDENTIFY the unaccompanied minor.
Ask for key information “e.g., name, age, pre-disaster address, names of parents/legal guardians, last known whereabouts of parents/legal guardians, relatives’ contact information, and, when possible, any disabilities, access and functional needs, or medical needs” ¹, p. 34. Recognizing that some may not be able or willing to provide it. ¹ Also note physical description (height, weight, hair color, and eye color), gender, other identifying characteristics (such as scars, birthmarks, etc.) and description of clothing/jewelry.

INITIATE your institution or location’s tracking procedure (e.g., wristband, web-based system, digital photograph)

CONTACT the appropriate responsible agency in your location.
Contact Information: ________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

PROVIDE secure shelter, care, and tracking until reunification.

KEY RESOURCES
- Law enforcement, child welfare/child protective services (Note contacts on reverse side)
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (missingkids.com)
  Reunification System 24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)
  TTY: 800-826-7653

EFFORTS WILL ENSUE to find the parent or legal guardian, and verify identity and custody before releasing the child. If needed, longer term housing, reunifying transportation, and secure care in the advent of the parent or legal guardian being deceased or incapacitated will be addressed. ¹

As a healthcare provider, during disasters you may encounter a child separated from a parent or legal guardian. It is important to know your role in tracking and reunification for that child. Your responsibilities and procedures for tracking and reunification of children in a disaster depend on your role, your state and local area, and your institution’s emergency preparedness plan. ¹ Consider health care, communication, and/or mobility needs of children. ¹ This card is supplementary to the clinical care you would provide within scope of practice, based on ongoing medical risk assessment.

Reference: ¹ Post-Disaster Reunification of Children: A Nationwide Approach. 2013. This document can be found at the following link: http://nationalmasscarestrategy.org/.