

LEADS Daily Bulletin

April 30, 2026

DATE OF EMANCIPATION (DOE) – Missing Juvenile

Emancipation is a legal way for children to become adults before they are 18. Once a child is emancipated, his or her parents do not have custody or control of him or her anymore.

The DOE Field is mandatory when the message key is **EMJ** or **EMJC**. When another message key is selected the DOE field will remain greyed out. The DOE indicates the exact day that an unemancipated juvenile will reach the age of emancipation (majority) as defined by the laws of his/her state of residence. The DOE must be later than the Last Date of Contact (DLC). DOE is entered in the same manner as a DOB, i.e., year, month, and day.

For example, a missing juvenile who was born on July 5, 2011, and is emancipated at the age of 18 years would be entered with DOB/**20110705** and DOE/**20290705**.

The only exception of the DOE field will be the entry of February 29 (----0229) in the DOE Field for a year that is not a leap year is prohibited. If the DOB is February 29 and the year of emancipation is not a leap year, agencies should enter March 1 for the DOE. The DOE must be complete (include year, month, and day) or the entry will be rejected.

Most states have a fixed age of emancipation which is commonly referred to as the age of majority. However, many states have exceptions which cause a person to become emancipated at an earlier age. For example, a person who is not married and is unemancipated until he/she reaches the age of 18 may be emancipated at an earlier age if his/her marital status changes or if he/she enters the military.

The exceptions concerning age of emancipation may be changed at any time by the passage of state law(s). Before entering a record for a missing person who is a resident of another state, an agency should contact the CTA of that state to obtain information concerning the age of emancipation.

Once you select EMJ or EMJC the Date of Emancipation becomes a required field. You have the option of right clicking on the DOE field and selecting the calendar option to locate a date.

The screenshot shows a web-based form titled "EM - NCIC Enter Missing Person". The form is organized into three main sections:

- Header Information:** Contains a "Message Key" dropdown menu set to "EMJ - Missing Person - Juvenile" and an "ORI" text field.
- Incident Information:** Contains fields for "Last Contact Date" (with a date picker), "Missing Person" (a dropdown menu), and "MP Circumstances" (a dropdown menu).
- Personal Information:** Contains a "Caution/Medical Condition" dropdown menu and several required fields: "Name", "Sex", "Race", "Date of Birth", "Age", "Date of Emancipation" (highlighted in yellow), "Place of Birth", "Height", "Weight", "Hair Color", "Eye Color", "Skin Tone", and "Scars, Marks, Tattoos".

