BYRON TOWNSHIP, MI -- An 8-year-old girl's false report of the abduction of another child prompted a large search Friday night in Kent County.

A Michigan State Police helicopter was called to help look for the alleged victim, who deputies determined does not exist.

The girl told her parents another girl was abducted as they played in vacant lots near railroad tracks in Camelot Manor mobile home park. The mobile home park is located off South Division Avenue and east of U.S. 131 in Byron Township.

The 8-year-old girl's parents called police about 5:30 p.m.
Kent County Sheriff's Lt. Jack Smith said the girl's story changed multiple times, but the one consistency was that a 9-year-old boy witnessed the alleged kidnapping. At one point, seven kids were playing in the vacant lots, but there were no adult witnesses.

The girl told deputies her friend was snatched by one or two men armed with knives and guns, then taken up a hill toward railroad tracks. Smith said the girl reported her friend's father came to pick her up but left with only the victim's brother. At another point, the girl said the father saw his child being taken away by a man.

The girl said she only knew the other girl's first name.

With help from a Wyoming police dog, deputies searched the mobile home park, as well as nearby Ideal Park and the area near U.S. 131. The perimeter extended north to 54th Street SW.

The state police helicopter was en route but called off once deputies determined the report was false.

Smith said it took a while to track down the boy who was with the girl. The boy told deputies the abduction didn't happen.

Deputies could not identify anyone matching the girl's description of the victim at the mobile home park.

Authorities cleared the scene about 8 p.m.

The girl will not face criminal charges for the false report.