



# Preventing International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA)

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

## BE INFORMED. BE PROACTIVE. ACT QUICKLY.

If you believe your child is in the process of being abducted abroad by a parent, legal guardian, or someone acting on their behalf, here are steps you can take immediately to try to prevent the abduction:

- Contact the Office of Children's Issues, Prevention Team at 1-888-407-4747 or at [PreventAbduction1@state.gov](mailto:PreventAbduction1@state.gov);
- Obtain a court order;
- Contact law enforcement and airport police;
- File a missing person report if your child is missing and ask about National Crime Information Center (NCIC) entry;
- Enroll your child(ren) in the Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP).

**Be aware that the United States does not require two-parent consent for a minor to travel across international borders.**

A court order can be an important preventive measure. The Office of Children's Issues strongly encourages parents to consult an attorney regarding their particular circumstances. Law enforcement may be unable to prevent an abduction without a valid court order clearly prohibiting the child's travel outside of the United States.

Your child may have dual nationality if, for example, one parent is a citizen of another country. If you suspect your child may hold another nationality, contact the embassy or consulate of that country and inquire about their passport requirements and entry/exit laws for minors.

## Prevent Abduction Program

As required by Title III of the International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act 6 U.S.C. 241, the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), in coordination with the U.S. Department of State and other federal agencies, has established its Prevent Abduction Program that seeks to prevent the departure of a child from the United States when presented with an order from a court of competent jurisdiction which prohibits the child's removal from the United States. More information can be found at: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-child-abduction-prevention-and-return-act>.

## CHILDREN'S PASSPORT ISSUANCE ALERT PROGRAM (CPIAP)

CPIAP allows the Office of Children's Issues to contact the enrolling parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to verify whether the parental consent requirement for minor passport issuance has been met when a passport application has been submitted for an enrolled child. Visit [travel.state.gov/prevention](https://travel.state.gov/prevention) or call 1-888-407-4747 for enrollment information.

For more information about IPCA prevention measures, visit [travel.state.gov/prevention](https://travel.state.gov/prevention).

## AFTER AN ABDUCTION OCCURS

If you have reason to believe that your child has been wrongfully removed or retained across an international border, either from the United States to a foreign country or from a foreign country to the United States, please contact the Office of Children's Issues at 1-888-407-4747, 202-501-4444, or [AbductionQuestions@state.gov](mailto:AbductionQuestions@state.gov).

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