



# **The Office of Children's Issues**

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**Rush Marburg, Prevention Branch Chief**  
**Ben Ousley Naseman, Africa-Mexico  
Outgoing Abductions Branch Chief**





# Mission Statement

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We, the Office of Children's Issues, develop and implement policies and practices to promote the welfare and safety of children involved in intercountry adoptions and international parental child abduction. As the U.S. Central Authority for both The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption and The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, we work to strengthen treaty compliance in the United States and abroad and to expand participation in these multilateral treaties.



# The Hague Convention



## Geography of the Convention:

- 70 partners
- Europe & the Americas
- Working to add more partners in Asia and Africa





# New IPCA Cases Top 10 countries 2012

Country	Outgoing	Country	Incoming
Mexico	260	Mexico	117
Canada	37	United Kingdom	28
United Kingdom	30	Canada	23
India	25	Germany	11
Peru	21	Dominican Republic	10
Germany	20	Colombia	8
Brazil	15	Belgium	7
Colombia	15	Nicaragua	7
Jordan	12	Israel and the Occupied Territories	6
Pakistan	12	Italy	6
Worldwide	799		344





# Roles and Responsibilities: Prevention

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- Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP)
- Guidance to parents
- Liaison with law enforcement agencies (local and fed)
- Outreach
- Training: Passport Agencies, law enforcement, airlines, and you!





# Prevention Guidance

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- The power of the passport
  - -Remember dual nationality
- Carefully tailored court orders
- Information is power
  - International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act can be a deterrent
- Mediation
- Third-party advocates; other resources





# Two-Parent Consent

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- Children under 16 require both parents (or legal guardians) to consent to passport issuance
- Some parents have authority to apply without other parent's consent (sole physical and legal authority)
- DS-3053 Form (Statement of Consent or Special Circumstances: Issuance of a ppt to a minor under age 16)
- Careful about inability to locate non-applying parent
- Burden of proof on applying parent





# “C” & “H”-Holds

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- Children’s Passport Issuance Alert Program
- ***What is a C-Hold?***
  - Part of the CPIAP
  - Name Check Hit
  - Not a “block” or a “stop”
- ***What is a H-Hold?***
  - Same as a C-Hold except:
  - Refers to Hague cases(Already an Abduction Case)
  - Also used when both parents request entry into CPIAP
  - Post can request, if they think its necessary



# Prevention: TSG

[http://travel.state.gov/abduction/prevention/prevention\\_560.html](http://travel.state.gov/abduction/prevention/prevention_560.html)

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## Prevention

Print

### Guarding Against International Parental Child Abduction

Parental child abduction is a federal crime. It is also a tragedy that jeopardizes children and has substantial long-term consequences for the "left-behind" parent, the child, the family, and society. Children who are abducted by their parents are often suddenly isolated from their extended families, friends, and classmates. They are at risk of serious emotional and psychological problems. Similarly, left-behind parents experience a wide range of emotions including betrayal, loss, anger, and depression. In international cases, they often face unfamiliar legal, cultural, and linguistic barriers that compound these emotions.

In this section of our Web site, learn about the measures you can take to prevent your child from being wrongfully taken to or wrongfully kept in another country. In addition to the materials below, also see these important links:

- Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program
- Passport Requirements for Minors
- Additional Prevention Tools
- For Attorneys & Judges

**International Parental Child Abduction Is Illegal**

### Abduction Resources

What's New?

Finding An Attorney

Possible Solutions

For Attorneys & Judges

Helpful Links





U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

# Prevent Departure

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Congressional Webinar

May 15, 2013

# CBP Responsibilities

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## **CBP Protects:**

- ❑ 5,000 miles of border with Canada
- ❑ 1,900 miles of border with Mexico
- ❑ 95,000 miles of shoreline

## **CBP Processes:**

- ❑ 329 Ports of Entry
- ❑ 20 Border Patrol Sectors
- ❑ 37 Permanent Checkpoints
- ❑ 1 Million Passengers Daily
- ❑ 250 Thousand Vehicles Daily
- ❑ 50 Thousand Truck, Rail and Sea Containers



# Contact Info

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All requests for Prevent Departure regarding potential child abduction must come through DOS

DOS Office of Children's Issues

24 hour hotline: 888-407-4747

[PreventAbduction@state.gov](mailto:PreventAbduction@state.gov)



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**



# Roles and Responsibilities: Outgoing

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- USCA for abductions from the United States to Hague partners
- “Hague Principle” support for abductions to non-Hague countries
- Geographic – Country Officers
- Monitor and report on Treaty compliance
- Expand the scope of the Abduction Convention





# Roles and Responsibilities: Incoming

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- USCA for abductions to the United States from Hague partners
- Limited support for IPCA from non-Hague countries
- Essential to proper functioning of the Hague convention





# What can the Consular Section do?

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## Routine Actions:

- Locate the child, using:
  - Local staff
  - Police contacts
  - Other contacts (Social Services, etc.)
- Conduct a Welfare/Whereabouts visit.
- Keep CI updated on contact with child and/or parents





# What can the Consular Section do?

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## Less Routine Actions:

- Attend court hearings when asked as an *observer*
- Encourage welfare and whereabouts visits in difficult cases (through child welfare organizations or MFA contacts)
- Know the territory (laws, culture, reality)
- Know the resources (legal, social, financial)
- Develop contacts
- Neither CI nor posts can give legal advice





# Emergency Situations

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- Issue new passports to abducted children
- Help return children to their custodial parents or place of habitual residence, process repatriation loans
- Communicate with Children's Issues



# Missing Children Division



# Call Center: 1-800-THE-LOST

- Operates 24/7/365
- 500+ calls a day: parents, law enforcement and the community
- Bilingual staff and access to over 180 languages
- Referrals: AMECO, NRS
- Secondary AMBER Alert distribution



# Case Manager

Case Analysis Division



Forensic Services



Photo Distribution



Family Advocacy Division



Federal Liaisons



Exploited Child Division



# Critical and Runaway Unit

Case Management Teams provide support to families and law enforcement officials to help bring children home by maximize the use of all available investigative and technological resources.

- Case Types
  - Runaways (prostitution, enticement)
  - LIM (Special Needs)
  - NFA
  - Section 5779 (Young Adults)

**\* On-Call After Hours Manager**



# Family Abduction Unit

Provides technical assistance and support to families, law enforcement and attorneys in the prevention of parental abductions and assists in locating and recovering missing children.

- Case Types:
  - Domestic
  - International
  - Prevention



**\* On-Call After Hours Manager**

# Civil and Criminal Remedies

- Hague Convention



- Interpol and Federal Resources



# NCMEC's Federal Partners



# Family Advocacy Division



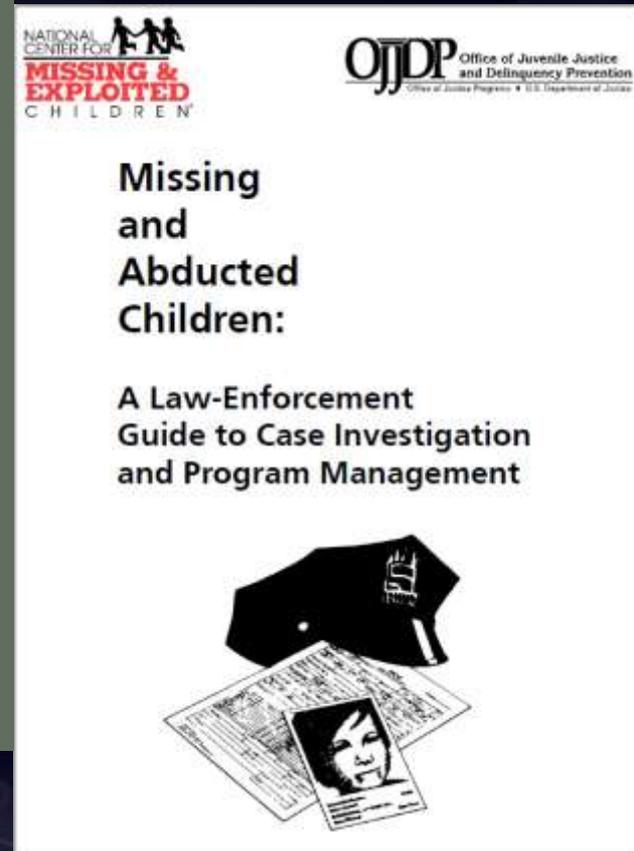
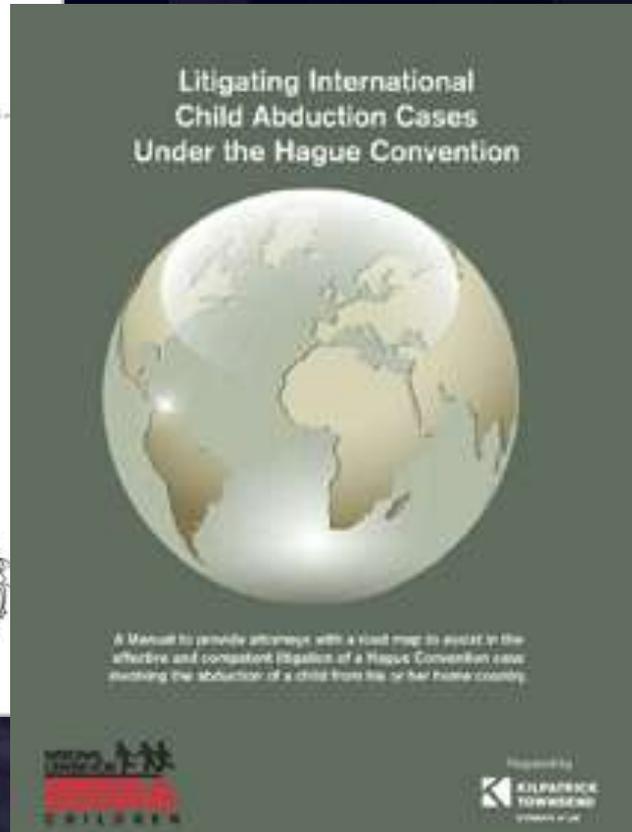
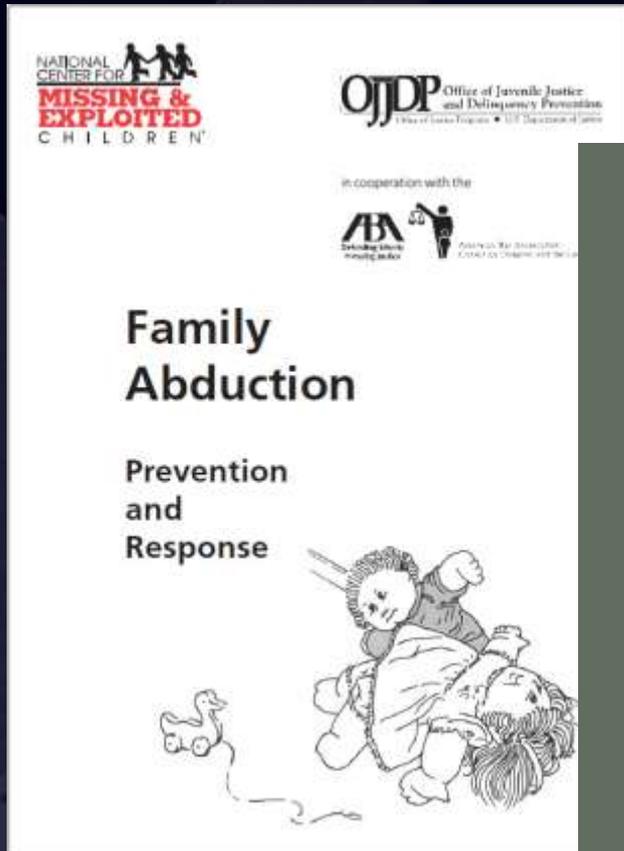
- Pre and post-recovery support & therapy
- Transportation & lodging grants
- Team Hope

American Airlines



CHOICE HOTELS  
INTERNATIONAL

# Reference Materials



# www.missingkids.com



Active AMBER Alerts | Global Network | Contact Us | Media Room | Publications

DONATE

WHO WE ARE

WHAT WE DO

HOW YOU CAN HELP

RESOURCES



## Recovered

After going missing more than 10 years ago, three women are now reported safe.



1 2 3 4

### Report It

#### 24-Hour HOTLINE

1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

If you think you have seen a missing child, contact the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

#### Report Child Sexual Exploitation

Use the Congressionally-authorized CyberTipline to report crimes against children.

MAKE A CYBERTIPLINE REPORT

### Featured Issues & Programs

#### Give Today

Help us keep kids safer by making a donation today!



We've been there

Talk to a trained Team HOPE volunteer who's been there before.



Child sex trafficking

Find out what we're doing to combat child sex trafficking.

### Help Me Get Back Home



SIDNEY RANDALL

Missing from: WALNUT RIDGE AR

Missing since: Mar 9, 2013



KELLY SMITH

Missing from: MUSKOGEE OK

Missing since: Mar 10, 2013

### Endangered Runaway



MEGAN MCGUIRT

Birth: 26-may-1994 Hair: Lt. Brown  
Missing: 29-nov-1997 Eyes: Brown  
Race: White Height: 5'0"  
Sex: F Weight: 110 lbs

Missing From:  
FERNALDINA BEACH  
FL  
USA

Age Now: 13 yrs

Child may be traveling with a male companion. They may be in Chihuahua, Mexico. Megan has a star on the back of her head.



ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT  
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
1-800-943-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST) or  
Fernandina Beach Police Department (Florida) - 1-904-277-7342  
www.missingkids.com

1-800-THE-LOST

1-800-843-5678



C H I L D R E N

# Questions?

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# Questions?

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