

Annual Report on
International Child Abduction

2019



REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF
INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION
APRIL 2019

SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO
THE SEAN AND DAVID GOLDMAN
INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION
PREVENTION AND RETURN ACT OF 2014
22 U.S.C. §9111, ET SEQ.



United States Department of State

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Reader:

The Department of State leads the U.S. government's efforts to prevent and resolve international parental child abductions, as part of the Department's mission to advance the interests and safety of the American people. I am incredibly proud of how the public servants at the Department of State assist some of our most vulnerable citizens – our children.

A dedicated team within the Bureau of Consular Affairs' Office of Children's Issues has continued to strengthen our close coordination efforts with law enforcement agencies and foreign governments to achieve our shared goal of preventing international parental child abductions. During 2018, the Prevention Team responded to more than 5,200 prevention-related public inquiries and enrolled over 4,700 children in our prevention programs, an increase of seven percent from 2017.

When a left-behind parent reports an abduction or wrongful retention to the Office of Children's Issues, our team of country officers provides information and resources to parents and works with foreign governments to facilitate the prompt resolution of abduction and access cases. Of the reported abductions our country officers handled, 232 children returned to the United States and an additional 174 cases were resolved in other ways during 2018. I also recognize some children may reach age 18 before their case is resolved. The Department continues to provide consular services, as appropriate, to these adults and their families through its embassies and consulates overseas.

As a party to the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (Convention), the United States is committed to the principle that the courts in a child's place of habitual residence are best positioned to resolve matters of custody, and that abducted children should be promptly returned to their country of habitual residence, as appropriate. The Department of State works with our Convention partner countries to strengthen compliance with the Convention and address issues of mutual concern. Likewise, we advocate with countries that have not joined the Convention to develop the institutions and procedures required to resolve international parental child abductions and to become party to the Convention. We are gratified to see more countries become party to the Convention every year, reaching a total of 99 parties in 2018.

The 2019 Annual Report on International Child Abduction illustrates the Department of State's efforts to prevent and resolve international parental child abductions during 2018. Despite continued progress, during 2018 some countries demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance as defined in the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014. This Report cites nine such countries. I remain deeply committed to encouraging these countries to take more effective measures to resolve cases of international parental child abduction on behalf of children and families around the world. I trust that this Report will be a valuable resource for Congress, parents, attorneys, judges, and law enforcement officers.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State

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Introduction

The Department of State's Role in International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA) Cases

As the U.S. Central Authority for the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (Convention), the Bureau of Consular Affairs' Office of Children's Issues leads U.S. government efforts to prevent abductions and to respond when international abductions or wrongful retentions happen. In recognition of the impact that an abduction or retention can have on children and their families, the Prevention Team leads the Office's efforts to reduce the number of abductions that occur. On a daily basis, prevention officers tell parents about the [Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program \(CPIAP\)](#), which is one of our strongest tools to prevent IPCA. Additionally, prevention officers regularly liaise with and train law enforcement officers on identifying and responding to IPCA.

As appropriate to the circumstances of each situation, country officers may work with foreign governments, nongovernmental organizations, other U.S. government agencies, and international organizations to resolve IPCA matters. We also actively encourage countries to become party to the Convention, which is the best means of ensuring that countries establish procedures to address abduction cases. Once the Convention is in force between the United States and another Convention party, also known as "partnership" under the Convention, we collaborate with foreign officials from that country to promote compliance with Convention obligations.

When parents report that their children have been abducted or retained outside of the United States ("outgoing abduction cases"), country officers inform them of potential options and provide resources to help them seek the return of, or access to, their children. In 2018, country officers handled 794 outgoing abduction cases, including 339 cases opened in 2018. During this time, country officers also responded to 246 initial inquiries in which parents sought information and resources regarding abductions and retentions but did not proceed with providing complete documentation.

Parents may choose to resolve abductions or retentions through voluntary agreements or [mediation](#). Depending on the arrangements that parents make, sometimes children will return to the United States and other times they will remain overseas. The Office of Children's Issues provides information and resources regarding mediation in IPCA matters, but it is not directly involved in mediation.

If a parent files for return or access under the Convention, country officers forward the application to our counterparts in the foreign central authority (FCA) where the child is believed to be located. After confirming the location of the child, typically FCAs seek a voluntary resolution or offer to initiate

or facilitate the institution of mediation between the parents. If the parents cannot reach a mutual decision, then the case generally moves to the judicial phase. While some parents reach a voluntary agreement during the judicial phase, in many cases, a judge makes a decision about whether the child should return to the country of habitual residence.

When the Convention is not an option, such as when children are located in a country for which the Convention is not in force with respect to the United States, other options that may be available are [mediation](#), [litigation in foreign courts](#), or the [pursuit of criminal law remedies](#). These same alternatives are available even when the Convention is an option. The Convention is not an exclusive remedy. While the Office of Children's Issues can provide a list of attorneys in the country where the child is located, country officers cannot act as a legal representative for either parent. Parents who use a foreign civil justice system will likely need to retain an attorney in the country where the child is located.

When a child returns to the United States as a result of a judicial order or voluntary arrangement, the Office of Children's Issues, U.S. embassies and consulates around the world, and law enforcement colleagues work to facilitate the child's safe and expeditious travel. From issuing travel documents to providing contacts with consular and victim's assistance specialists, country officers provide options and resources to facilitate safe return and reintegration.

For IPCA cases in which children are abducted to, or retained in, the United States ("incoming abduction cases"), the Office of Children's Issues, as the U.S. Central Authority under the Convention, carries out the required functions of locating children, providing an option for voluntary resolution, facilitating access to mediation services when requested, and monitoring proceedings under the Convention. In this capacity, the Office of Children's Issues also educates U.S. judges, attorneys, and law enforcement officials on the United States' obligations under the Convention.

Preventing International Parental Child Abduction

The Office of Children's Issues' Prevention Team responds to inquiries from parents, the legal community, law enforcement, foreign governments, and other stakeholders about how to prevent international parental child abduction. The Prevention Team also assists in preventing third-country abductions transiting through the United States. In 2018, the Prevention Team fielded over 5,200 prevention-related inquiries, nearly a 50 percent increase over 2017.

The [Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program \(CPIAP\)](#) is one of the Department of State's most important tools for preventing international parental child abduction. In 2018, the

Prevention Team enrolled over 4,700 children into the CPIAP, an increase of seven percent over 2017. If a passport application is submitted for a child who is enrolled in the CPIAP, the program 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 issuance of a passport to a minor has been met. Parents can access the enrollment forms through the Department of State's [website](#) or by contacting the Prevention Team.

When alerted to a possible abduction in progress, the Prevention Team liaises with law enforcement officials to seek to prevent a child from departing from the United States if a parent or legal guardian of the child presents a court order from a court of competent jurisdiction prohibiting the removal of the child from the United States. In 2018, the Prevention Team helped enroll 236 children in U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) [Prevent Abduction Program](#), an increase of 12 percent over 2017. More information on this program is available on [CBP's website](#).

Immediate Steps that May Help Prevent an Abduction:

Obtain a court order: 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, including the possibility of obtaining an order that prohibits their child from traveling outside of the United States.

Contact law enforcement: Inform law enforcement immediately of any court orders, and the potential for international parental child abduction.

Contact airport police and the airlines: Contact the airlines and airport law enforcement at the departing airport.

Contact the foreign embassy or consulate: Inform the foreign embassy or consulate nearest you if your child is or may be a dual national.

The Prevention Team's duty officer program provides round-the-clock assistance by phone at 1-888-407-4747 to assist parents and law enforcement officials to thwart international parental child abductions. The Prevention Team can also be reached via email at PreventAbduction1@state.gov for non-emergency questions or assistance.

Cooperation with Law Enforcement

Federal, state, and local law enforcement bodies have a prominent role in the prevention and resolution of international parental child abduction. When law enforcement authorities encounter a child at risk for IPCA, or who has been abducted

internationally, they should contact the Office of Children's Issues immediately. The Department of State engages regularly in outreach efforts to law enforcement regarding our role and the resources the Department has to assist them in abduction cases.

The Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act (the Act) of 2014 helped to increase collaboration on IPCA among federal agencies. The Department of State hosts biannual interagency meetings to improve coordination efforts to prevent international parental abductions. Participants include the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Justice (DOJ), including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), and the Department of Defense (DOD). The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children also participate. This interagency cooperation has increased the effectiveness of the Department of State's round-the-clock duty officer program to assist parents whose children may be imminently at risk of international parental child abduction, or who need assistance facilitating the safe return of their child from abroad. Prevention officers enlist the cooperation of relevant agencies, such as DHS' U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the FBI when there is an abduction in progress reported.

As part of the ongoing collaboration between the Department of State and DHS, the Office of Children's Issues has placed two prevention officers at CBP's National Targeting Center as liaisons. This arrangement has enhanced communication, streamlined processing of time-sensitive cases, expedited responses from both Departments, and expanded the Department of State's relationships with law enforcement entities.

Diplomatic Efforts to Combat International Parental Child Abduction

The Office of Children's Issues engages with both Convention partners and non-partners to prevent and resolve international parental abductions. The Office of Children's Issues conducts long-term advocacy to improve cooperation with foreign governments on abduction prevention and response by encouraging countries to become party to the Convention, to provide meaningful assistance in abductions not falling under the Convention, and to strengthen compliance with the Convention where applicable.

In coordination with the entire Department of State, the Office of Children's Issues leads much of the diplomatic engagement on abduction matters. Country officers maintain regular contact with counterparts in foreign central authorities, foreign

missions in Washington, D.C., and U.S. diplomatic missions overseas. Each abduction is unique and each country has its own distinct judicial system, law enforcement entities, and cultural and family traditions. The Department of State tailors its strategy to deploy the most effective bilateral approach with each country.

The Office of Children's Issues leverages the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) to further diplomatic engagement with foreign leaders and improve understanding and implementation of the Convention. IVLP participants are emerging leaders who travel to the United States to engage with U.S. counterparts in public and private sector organizations at the national, state, and local levels. Office of Children's Issues' staff with regional expertise in prevention and abduction regularly meet with IVLP participants to provide an overview of the U.S. Central Authority's role in preventing and resolving international parental child abductions. IVLP delegations often include judges and attorneys, government officials, and civil society leaders. In 2018, the Office of Children's Issues hosted and engaged with IVLP participants from Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

The Special Advisor for Children's Issues, Suzanne I. Lawrence, plays a unique and critical role in developing strategies to resolve emerging IPCA-related problems. During 2018, Special Advisor Lawrence traveled to eight countries: Brazil, China, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Netherlands, India, Jamaica, and Vietnam. She also held numerous high-level meetings in Washington D.C., including various engagements with Argentina, Armenia, Canada, India, Japan, and Mexico, to address IPCA with foreign government officials at the highest levels and discuss proper implementation of the Convention, or to encourage nonmember countries to accede to or ratify the Convention.

Throughout 2018, the Special Advisor for Children's Issues and other senior U.S. government officials continued to engage with foreign officials around the world to promote the prevention and resolution of international parental child abductions. The following are examples of such efforts:

- The United States accepted Armenia's accession to the Convention, making Armenia the 78th U.S. Convention partner. The Convention entered into force between the United States and Armenia on March 1, 2018.
- Special Advisor Lawrence made her inaugural visit to Brazil in April to discuss IPCA and Brazil's efforts to comply with the Convention. She engaged high-level Brazilian and international community stakeholders to highlight judicial delays and encourage cooperation on potential ways to improve Convention implementation.
- Special Advisor Lawrence met with representatives from the Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Justice and influential members of the Brazilian federal judiciary. She also met with the Minister of the Brazilian Superior Court.
- The Director of the Office of Children's Issues, Scott M. Renner, attended the Conference of International Hague Network Judges to discuss the role of the U.S. Central Authority (USCA). Judges from Argentina, Australia, The Bahamas, Belgium, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and Venezuela also attended the conference, providing opportunities for numerous productive discussions.
- Director Renner led a delegation to Saudi Arabia for consultations of the U.S.-Saudi Joint Commission to Address International Parental Child Abduction, established through the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding in 2017.
- Special Advisor Lawrence led a delegation to Vietnam to meet with high-level officials from the Vietnamese Ministry of Justice's Department of International Law and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. She also met with representatives from social groups representing the Women's Union and Vietnam's Youth Union, and a Judge from the Supreme People's Court. The two countries discussed Vietnam's three-year preparation plan to accede to the Convention.
- Special Advisor Lawrence traveled to China to meet with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Deputy Director of the Department of Treaty and Law. The visit represents the first substantive discussion on IPCA between the two countries.
- Among various IPCA engagements throughout 2018 with India, the U.S. Ambassador met with the Minister for Women and Child Development and other officials to discuss the resolution of pending abduction cases and to encourage India's accession to the Convention. Separately, Special Advisor Lawrence met with Indian officials, legal experts, and civil society organizations to address common concerns about India becoming party to the Convention.

- Special Advisor Lawrence led a delegation to Ecuador to discuss Ecuador's compliance with Convention obligations. The delegation met with the Ecuadorian Central Authority, the Ecuadorian Hague Network Judge, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the police unit responsible for locating abducted children, and the president of the National Court of Justice.
- Special Advisor Lawrence and Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Carl C. Risch visited the Dominican Republic to engage the Government of the Dominican Republic on the Convention. They met with Dominican officials at the National Palace to reiterate the importance of prompt resolutions of these difficult cases. Special Advisor Lawrence also met with the Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court and with the Dominican Central Authority.
- In October 2018, Jamaica, as a newly acceded country in the region, hosted representatives from over 20 delegations predominately from the Caribbean to discuss implementation of the Convention and best practices. Special Advisor Lawrence led a delegation to participate and present at the Caribbean Conference on International Child Protection. She held a series of bilateral meetings with the Jamaican Central Authority, the Office of the Children's Advocate, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She also took this opportunity to meet separately with the delegations from The Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago to discuss the importance of prompt resolutions to IPCA cases. The Department welcomes opportunities to improve regional cooperation.

Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

What is the Convention?

The *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (Convention) is an international treaty that establishes a civil mechanism to promptly return children who have been removed from or retained outside of their country of habitual residence in violation of custodial rights. Parents can also seek access to their children across international borders under the Convention. The Convention has proven to be one of the most effective tools available for parents or legal guardians to seek the return of their abducted children. The Convention entered into force for the United States on July 1, 1988.

Each country that is a party to the Convention must designate a Central Authority, which serves as the main point of contact

for parents and other governments involved in IPCA cases. The Central Authority helps to locate abducted children and processes requests for the return of, or access to, these children.

What is the Hague Permanent Bureau?

The [Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law](#), commonly referred to as the Permanent Bureau, supports international implementation of this Convention and other Hague Conventions on an ongoing basis. The Permanent Bureau maintains the Hague Conference's website containing resources such as the [Guides to Good Practice](#) that may help a country effectively implement the Convention.

What is the role of the Department of State in Convention cases?

The Department of State's Office of Children's Issues serves as the U.S. Central Authority for the Convention and leads U.S. government efforts to combat international parental child abduction within the Department of State and with other U.S. government agencies. The Office of Children's Issues coordinates with other relevant offices in the Department of State as well as Congress, law enforcement, social services agencies, attorneys, and other organizations as needed in specific cases or in the development and implementation of U.S. government policy.

When a child is wrongfully removed or is being wrongfully retained in a country with which the United States has partnered under the Convention, a parent can file an application requesting that the child be returned to the United States. A parent may also request access to a child under the Convention. The Office of Children's Issues serves as the primary point of contact for both parents and foreign central authorities (FCAs) and will liaise with FCAs and U.S. embassies and consulates abroad to confirm the child's welfare and facilitate the filing of the application, as appropriate. The Office of Children's Issues submits completed applications to the FCA in the country where the parent believes the child to be located.

After the application for return or access has been filed, FCAs must take all appropriate measures to locate wrongfully removed or retained children and facilitate the institution of judicial or administrative proceedings with a view to obtaining the return of the child unless specific exceptions apply. Courts should decide these cases promptly, and the Office of Children's Issues monitors Convention cases throughout the foreign administrative and legal processes.

Does the Convention apply to all international parental abductions?

No. The Convention does not apply to every international abduction or retention. The Convention must have been in force between the two countries when the wrongful removal or retention occurred. The Convention is in force between the United States and [78 partners](#).

In order to seek a return under the Convention, a parent or legal guardian must show that:

- The child is under the age of 16.
- The child was habitually resident in one Convention country, and was wrongfully removed to or retained in another Convention country.
- The removal or retention of the child was wrongful; a removal or retention is considered wrongful if it was in violation of custodial rights, and the parent was exercising those rights at the time of the removal or retention or would have been but for the removal or retention.

Will a child return if a parent files a Convention case?

Under the Convention, a country may refuse to return an abducted child to a country of habitual residence under specific exceptions. Countries vary in how they interpret the exceptions.

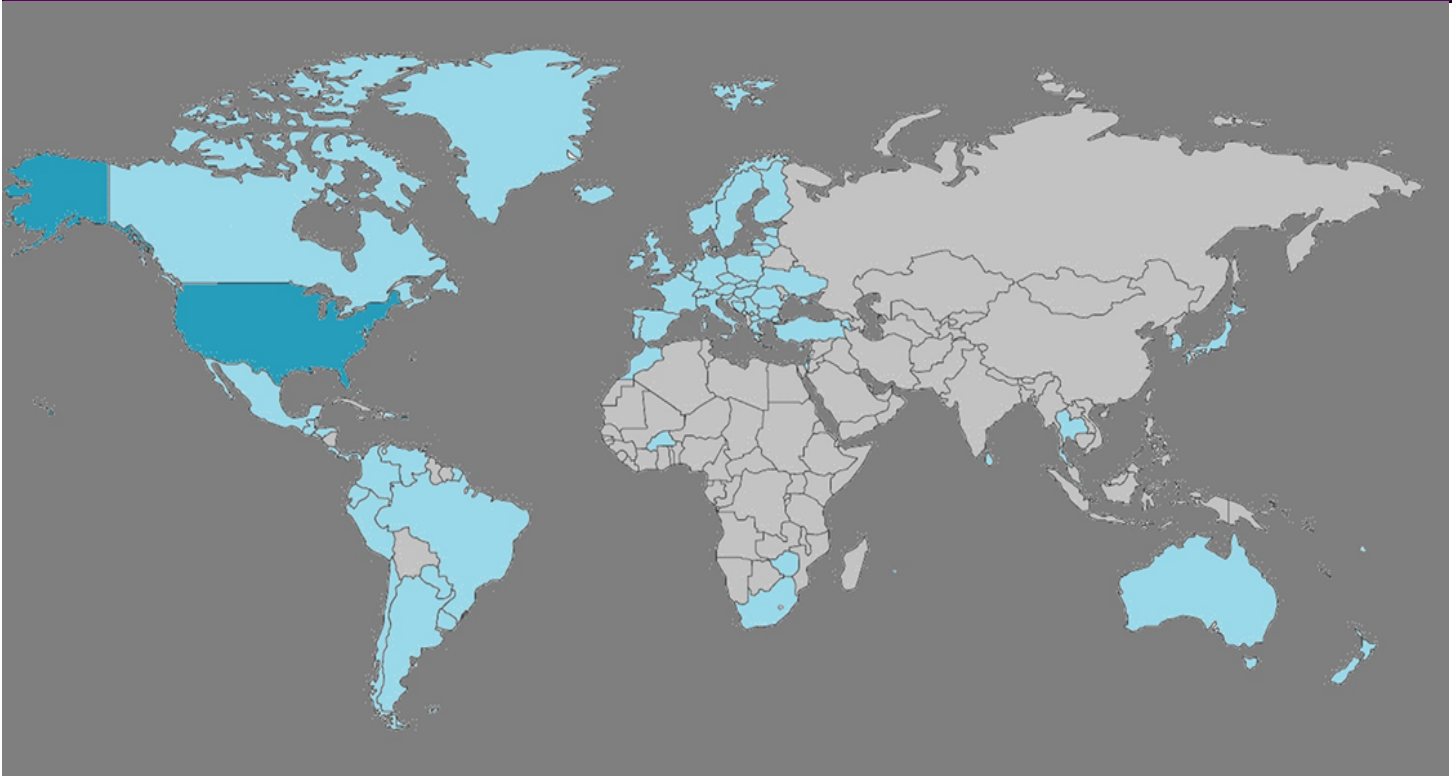
Will a parent gain access to a child by filing a Convention case?

Countries vary greatly in how they handle requests for access under the Convention.

If a parent already has a U.S. custody order, why pursue a Convention case?

U.S. court orders may not be recognized in other countries. The Convention provides a civil legal mechanism to request the return of or access to a child. Parents may wish to consult an attorney to determine the best strategy for their particular circumstances. While the Office of Children's Issues and U.S. embassies and consulates cannot provide legal advice, the Department of State provides information about [retaining a foreign attorney](#) and [U.S. embassies](#) generally publish lists of attorneys who have identified themselves as willing to assist U.S. citizen clients. Foreign law directories, bar associations, or other organizations may be able to provide additional information on legal counsel in a foreign country.

2018 U.S. Convention Partners



The Role of the Department of State in Non-Convention Cases

The Office of Children's Issues also leads the U.S. government response to international parental child abduction to countries that are not Convention partners with the United States. For parents whose children have been wrongfully removed to or retained in countries that are not Convention partners with the United States, the Office of Children's Issues may be able to provide information and resources about country-specific options for pursuing the return of or access to an abducted child. The Department may also coordinate with appropriate foreign and U.S. government authorities to monitor the welfare of abducted U.S. citizen children and encourage resolutions, as appropriate. The Office of Children's Issues or a U.S. embassy can also provide a [list of attorneys](#) who have expressed their willingness to represent U.S. citizen clients in the country where the child is located.

Parents should consider consulting an attorney who can provide legal guidance that is specific to their circumstances.

Assistance to U.S. Military Personnel and Their Families

Providing assistance to our military families is a priority for the Department. We work closely with the Department of Defense to facilitate Convention applications, explain options available to parents, and inform military liaisons about options in abduction and access proceedings. We recognize that abductions involving military parents present unique challenges. For that reason, we provide training to our military colleagues who may be in a position to help military families to mitigate the risk of loss of contact with children and to understand the legal means available to resolve abduction cases.

The Department of State is engaged with the Department of Defense's Office of Legal Policy and the Service Chiefs of Legal Assistance for all five branches of the military on IPCA issues that may impact military service members and their families. The Office of Children's Issues and Department of State attorneys have provided training to educate military lawyers and others on measures for preventing and resolving international parental abductions. In 2018 the Department sent a team to train judge advocates from the U.S. Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy at Yokota Air Base, Yokosuka Navy Base, and Camp Foster in Japan and at Osan Air Base, Kunsan Air Base, and Camp Humphreys in the Republic of Korea.

While serving overseas, active-duty U.S. military members and their accompanying non-active duty dependents are subject to the foreign country's laws. Civil issues, including family law matters, generally fall under the jurisdiction of the host country's courts. The country where a U.S. military family is living may be considered the family's habitual residence. For more information, please see our [website](#). The Department of Defense may have additional resources to assist in preventing and resolving international parental child abductions.

In 2018, the Office of Children's Issues responded to six initial inquiries affecting military parents regarding possible abductions. The Office of Children's Issues also worked on eight abduction cases affecting military parents. Of these, five were resolved, one was unresolved, and three remained open at the end of the year.

Children Returned to the United States and Other Resolutions

In 2018, 232 abducted or wrongfully retained children returned to the United States.

The majority, 174, returned from Convention countries, while 58 children returned from countries adhering to no protocols with respect to child abduction.

Last year, the Department worked on 172 abduction cases that were resolved without the abducted children returning to the United States. These include cases that were closed for the following reasons: (1) the judicial or administrative authority complied with the Convention; (2) the parents reached a voluntary arrangement for the child to remain; (3) the left-behind parent withdrew the application or request; (4) the left-behind parent could not be located by the Office of Children's Issues for one year; or (5) the child or left-behind parent is deceased.

Of the 172 cases, 126 involved Convention countries, and 46 involved non-Convention countries.

To provide a longer-term perspective, the Office of Children's Issues reviewed the files of all children involved in abduction cases opened in 2016. Of the abduction cases opened in 2016, only 12 percent remained open at the end of 2018, 47 percent had resolved either judicially or voluntarily, and another 41 percent had resolved for other reasons or had been closed administratively. By December 31, 2018, 33 percent of the children involved in abduction cases opened in 2016 had returned to the United States.

Other Issues Regarding International Parental Child Abduction

Voluntary Agreements

Voluntary agreements are an important mechanism through which international parental child abduction cases may be resolved. This is true in both the Convention and non-Convention context. Parents can simultaneously pursue both a return through the Convention and a voluntary agreement.

Parents considering mediation or other forms of alternative dispute resolution should always consult a legal representative for guidance, as mediation may or may not be the right option for a particular case.

Domestic Violence Resources Available in IPCA cases

Recognizing that some parents and children impacted by international parental abduction are also survivors of domestic violence, the Office of Children's Issues encourages families to seek appropriate resources and legal advice. There are more than 10,000 organizations and agencies in the United States that provide support and services to victims of crime, including domestic violence, regardless of their immigration status. Services may include counseling, language interpretation, safety planning, emergency housing in confidential shelters, and emergency financial assistance. There are toll-free telephone helpline services with trained operators who help survivors at all hours, seven days a week, may be able to provide translation, and can connect a victim with free local services.

Survivors may seek court intervention and obtain protection orders, child custody and divorce orders, and child support orders. Civil and criminal court judges can order several remedies to promote the safety and welfare of the victim and children, including parenting classes, substance abuse classes, and drug rehabilitation. Prosecutors may also pursue criminal charges and penalties.

Under the Hague Abduction Convention, a judge may decline to return a child to his or her country of habitual residence if returning the child would present a grave risk of harm to the child or place the child in an intolerable situation.

While the Department of State can provide survivors of domestic violence information on various federal or state-specific organizations, shelters, attorneys, and other resources, it does not assess the veracity of domestic violence allegations, or any other factual matters, in abduction cases.

In 1996, the U.S. government launched the National Domestic Violence Hotline, a 24-hour, toll-free service that provides crisis assistance and local shelter referral for callers across the country. The telephone number is (800) 787-SAFE ((800) 787-7233). The TDD number for the hearing impaired is (800) 787-3224.

Criminal Laws and Remedies

International parental child abduction is a federal crime in the United States. Under the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act, anyone who “removes a child from the United States, or attempts to do so, or retains a child (who has been in the United States) outside the United States with intent to obstruct the lawful exercise of parental rights” may be imprisoned for up to three years. In addition, every state and the District of Columbia have criminal laws regarding parental kidnapping. It is important that parents seek legal advice before moving or retaining a child across international borders.

A decision by a left-behind parent about whether to [pursue criminal charges](#) against the taking parent is a difficult one that should be made after consultation with a legal representative and in consideration of its potential impact on other aspects of their efforts to secure the child's return. Depending on the circumstances, criminal charges filed against the taking parent can either help or hinder the successful return of the child.

Resources for U.S. Judges in the Application of the Convention

As the U.S. Central Authority, the Office of Children's Issues educates judges in the United States on the Convention. Our website provides [resources including legal analysis and abduction prevention tools and information](#) for judges hearing Convention cases.

We send letters to U.S. judges hearing Convention cases in the United States that highlight important aspects of the Convention. The letters reference articles such as the requirement for cases to be handled expeditiously and for the court to decide habitual residence rather than custody. The letters also further explain our role as the U.S. Central Authority and provide additional resources such as the United States' implementing legislation, the International Child Abduction Remedies Act. We notify judges that the four U.S. members of the International Hague Network of Judges, who are experts on the Convention, are available for consultation on IPCA cases. The role of a Network Judge is to help facilitate direct judicial communications by serving as a link to his/her colleagues at the domestic level and other members of the Network at an international level.

Use of Airlines in Abductions

Many international parental child abductions take place via international airline flights, although the Department has no specific data on this issue. In June 2011, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) thoroughly reviewed commercial airline practices aimed at preventing international parental child abduction. The GAO report addressed the appropriate role of commercial airlines in preventing international parental child abductions. The Department recommends the following best practices for airlines to aid in preventing abductions:

1. Efforts to Support and Cooperate with Law Enforcement:

Federal and state law enforcement entities have a prominent role in preventing abductions and airlines should work to support law enforcement agencies in this role. As private sector entities, airlines in the United States do not have the authority to enforce custody orders. Commercial airlines' main role related to the prevention of abductions is cooperating, upon request, with law enforcement officials.

2. Know How to Report: Commercial airline employees should be made aware of the Office of Children's Issues' contact information and potential child abduction indicators, so that abduction cases reported to the airlines, either by parents, attorneys, courts, law enforcement officials, or other stakeholders may be appropriately referred for immediate assistance. The Department of State provides brochures that contain the Department's contact information and information on potential child abduction indicators to port authorities, airline employees, and the general public. The Department will continue its outreach activities to these stakeholders.

How to Use This Report

This report provides Congress with information regarding international parental child abduction. To that end, readers will find a data page for every country with one or more open abduction cases during 2018 that were reported to the Office of Children's Issues for a child whose habitual residence is the United States. These pages are organized into two sections. The first section consists of countries determined to have demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance during 2018 as required by section 101(b)(5) of the Act. The second section consists of the remainder of countries with one or more abduction or access cases for a child whose habitual residence is the United States. Countries that did not have an open abduction or access case in 2018 are not listed in this Report.

Each country data page includes a country summary, a table containing data on cases open with the Office of Children's Issues in 2017 and 2018, and an evaluation of the foreign central authority. Additionally, readers will find status reports on Department of State requests for governments to locate children, rulings by foreign judicial authorities, actions taken to enforce judicial orders, and Department recommendations. For those countries where the Department submitted cases to a foreign central authority, an additional table appears under the central authority section with data required by the Act.

This Report presents abduction and access cases in a country during calendar year 2018. The volume of cases over this period may not be sufficient to indicate major trends in a particular country. Therefore, the Office of Children's Issues recommends considering the information presented in this report along with the information presented in [previous annual reports on IPCA](#) and the other topical annual reports and [country information](#) the Department of State publishes.

The following blank country data page with accompanying definitions explains how data is organized in this report.

Understanding the Country Pages

Country Summary: This section indicates whether the country is a party to the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (Convention), and whether the Convention is in force between the country and the United States. For countries not partners with the United States under the Convention, if the Office of Children’s Issues has established bilateral procedures with the country, that will also be indicated in the summary. This section will also state if a country is being cited for “demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance” as defined in the Act. If appropriate, previous citations will also be included here. All commentary on this page refers to the country’s performance during calendar year 2018.

Initial Inquiries: The number of inquiries for which U.S. Central Authority staff provided information and resources, but no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

Table 1. Abduction Cases reported to the U.S. Central Authority

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year includes any abduction case reported to the U.S. Central Authority prior to January 1 that had not been resolved or closed by that date. An abduction case is any abduction matter reported to the U.S. Central Authority for which a parent or legal guardian has submitted sufficient documentation to meet the definition of “abduction case” as defined in 22 U.S.C. §9101.				
New Abduction Cases reflects reported abduction cases received by the U.S. Central Authority from January 1 through December 31, which meet the definition of “abduction case” as defined in 22 U.S.C. §9101.				
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year reflects the number of reported abduction cases resolved from January 1 through December 31. A resolved abduction case is defined as any reported abduction that was closed for one of the following reasons: 1) the child was returned; 2) the judicial or administrative authority complied with the Hague Abduction Convention; 3) the parents reached a voluntary arrangement; 4) the left-behind parent withdrew the application or request; 5) the left-behind parent could not be located for one year despite documented efforts by the U.S. Central Authority to locate the parent; or 6) the child or left-behind parent is deceased.				
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year includes abduction cases closed for reasons other than those listed in the definition of a resolved abduction case.				
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year counts abduction cases still open on December 31.				

Abduction and access cases are dynamic and require coordinating information among several actors. Each year the Report is based upon the information available at the time of reporting, which for some countries may lead to slightly different statistics than previously reported. The total number of the children listed under abduction cases resolved, closed, and still open in some country pages may not equal the number of children for the total abduction cases in that year as some children may have individual outcomes that are different from the outcomes for other children in a given case.

Significant Developments: Changes to a country’s law or other events that impact the handling of parental abduction matters in a country are reported here.

Central Authority: Countries party to the Convention designate an office to carry out Convention responsibilities. For non-Convention countries, the central authority is the “foreign ministry or other appropriate authority of such country,” 22 U.S.C. §9101 (10). This section of the Report assesses the country’s central authority, where appropriate.

Table 2. Abduction cases conveyed to the country by the U.S. Central Authority

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year reflects any abduction case pending with the foreign central authority on January 1.				
New Cases Filed with the FCA reflects abduction cases the U.S. Central Authority transmitted to the foreign central authority from January 1 through December 31.				
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year reflects the total number of abduction cases pending with the foreign central authority at any time during the year.				
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months. In a Convention country, an abduction case that remains unresolved for a period that exceeds 12 months after the date on which the completed application for return of the child is submitted for determination to the judicial or administrative authority, as applicable, in the country in which the child is located. In a non-Convention country, an abduction case that remains unresolved for a period that exceeds 12 months after the date on which the request for return of the child was submitted to the foreign ministry or other appropriate authority in the country in which the child is located.				
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year is the percent of the abduction cases pending with the foreign central authority or relevant foreign government office that were unresolved on December 31.				

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention directs central authorities to “take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” This section indicates the number of abduction cases that were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In a Convention country, after the U.S. Central Authority transmits an application to a foreign central authority, the responsible authorities in that country attempt to locate the child. In a non-Convention country, location refers to requests made by the Department of State to the competent authorities to locate a child reported abducted to its territory. This section describes the country’s performance in locating children that were reported abducted to the country.

Judicial Authorities: This section describes the performance of the country’s judicial or administrative body with adjudicative authority to hear and decide upon abduction or access cases.

Enforcement: This section describes the country’s performance implementing judicial or administrative orders in abduction or access cases.

Department Recommendations: This section describes the Department’s recommendations for future engagement with the country concerning international parental child abduction.

Access: This section describes any access cases with the country during 2018. In an access case, a parent or legal guardian seeks access to the child or children living in a foreign country.

Pre-Convention Cases: If the Convention is in force between the United States and the country, this section will indicate whether there are ongoing cases that predate the Convention partnership.

**COUNTRIES DEMONSTRATING A
PATTERN OF NONCOMPLIANCE**

Argentina

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Argentina since 1991. In 2018, Argentina demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Argentine judicial authorities failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 25 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for nine years and 10 months. Argentina was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2014-2018 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Argentina for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	4	3	3
New Abduction Cases	2	2	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	5	6	4	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	3	2 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	2 (50%)	2

Significant Developments: Argentina ordered the return of one child in one case in 2018, resolving a six-year-long Convention application. The Argentine Central Authority, together with the broader Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, coordinated with the Department to ensure the safe return of the child.

The U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires organized an International Visitor Leadership Program focused on the Convention, inviting officials from the executive and judicial branches of the Government of Argentina to the United States to learn about Convention implementation in the United States.

Argentina’s Supreme Court issued a decision on one Convention case from the United States, holding, among other things, that Convention cases should be heard in provincial family court circuits rather than in Argentine federal court. The impact of this decision on the Department’s longstanding concern over judicial delays remains to be seen. Additionally, during this reporting period the Argentine executive branch submitted a draft national procedural law on child abduction cases, designed to reduce delays in judicial procedures, to the Argentine Congress.

Central Authority: The United States and the Argentine Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	4	3	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	5	6	4	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	40%		25%	



Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was one year and three months. This average is a result of one case where law enforcement failed to locate the child until this reporting period, after four years and nine months. In another case, the child has not been located at the address provided, and, during this reporting period, law enforcement has failed to locate the child, leading to delays in judicial proceedings.

Judicial Authorities: There were serious delays by the Argentine judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases. As a result of these delays, cases may be pending with the judiciary for over one year, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance.

Enforcement: While courts in Argentina ordered returns under the Convention, Argentine authorities were not always able to enforce these orders. Argentina’s legal system allows multiple appeals both on the merits of the decision and on the manner in which the decisions are enforced, thereby creating excessive delays. In this reporting period, Argentina did promptly enforce the court-ordered return of one child in one case.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Argentina. This case was opened in 2018. This case has been filed with the Argentine Central Authority. This case was filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, this case remained open.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Argentine authorities to address issues of concern.



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Brazil since 2003. In 2018, Brazil demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Brazilian judicial authorities persistently failed to regularly implement and comply with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 44 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for five years and 10 months. Brazil was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2006-2017 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	16	20	10	14
New Abduction Cases	3	6	7	11
Total Abduction Cases	19	26	17	25
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	9	12	7 (41%)	10
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	10	14	10 (59%)	15

Significant Developments: In September 2018, the Brazilian Ministry of Justice, Ministry of External Relations, and judiciary along with officials from the U.S. Central Authority and a U.S. Hague Network Judge participated in the second annual judicial seminar aimed at providing judges with additional guidance related to the Convention. The National Council for Justice also drafted and issued guidelines to the Brazilian judiciary focused on expediting Convention cases.

Central Authority: The United States and the Brazilian Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	16	20	10	14
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	6	6	10
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	19	26	16	24
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	7	8	7	10
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	37%		44%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was three months and six days. As of December 31, 2018, there is one case where the Brazilian authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: There were serious delays by the Brazilian judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases. As a result of these delays, cases may be pending with the judiciary for over one year, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance.

Enforcement: While courts in Brazil ordered returns under the Convention, the Brazilian judicial authorities were not always able to enforce these orders. In one notable case, after nine years of litigation at all levels of the Brazilian judiciary, the Brazilian court still failed to enforce its own order for return.



Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of seven open access cases under the Convention in Brazil. Of these, one case was opened in 2018. This case was filed with the Brazilian Central Authority in 2018. By December 31, 2018, four cases (57% percent) have been resolved. Of those resolved, two were a result of a voluntary agreement between the parents. As of December 31, 2018, three cases remained open. Two cases have been pending with the Brazilian authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Brazilian authorities to address issues of concern.



Ecuador

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Ecuador since 1992. In 2018, Ecuador demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the judiciary persistently failed to implement the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 33 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for one year and five months. Ecuador was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2018 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Ecuador for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	6	4	7
New Abduction Cases	4	7	3	4
Total Abduction Cases	9	13	7	11
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	6	4 (57%)	7
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	7	3 (34%)	4

Significant Developments: Ecuador enforced the return of one child to the United States in one case in 2018, resolving a six-year-long Convention application. The Ecuadorian Central Authority (ECA) and Ecuador’s specialized law enforcement unit for children, *Dirección Nacional de Policía Especializada para Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes* (DINAPEN), coordinated with the Department to ensure the safe return of the child. In the reporting year, the ECA and other IPCA stakeholders in Ecuador expressed interest in additional support and training for judges in Ecuador. In July 2018, members of the ECA and DINAPEN visited the United States on a week-long child abduction-focused International Visitor Leadership Program. Additionally, the Special Advisor for Children’s Issues traveled to Quito for high-level meetings to discuss Ecuador’s noncompliance with the Convention with the ECA, the Ecuadorian Hague Network Judge, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DINAPEN, and the president of the National Court of Justice. Finally, the ECA moved from the Ministry of Justice to the Secretariat of Human Rights in December 2018.

Central Authority: The United States and the Ecuadorian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention. In 2018, the Department noted substantial improvement in information sharing and improved coordination with the ECA.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	5	6	4	7
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	6	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	8	12	6	10
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	2	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	13%		33%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.



Location: The United States and the Ecuadorian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention. The average time to locate a child was 59 days. As of December 31, 2018, there is one case where the Ecuadorian authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The Ecuadorian judicial authorities issued a series of decisions that were not consistent with the Convention, and there were serious delays in deciding Convention cases, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. As a result, cases may be pending with the judiciary for over one year. Some of the language in a decision issued by the court raised concerns that defenses to return under the Convention may be interpreted too broadly, in contrast with the commonly held understanding that exceptions to return must be narrowly interpreted to maintain the efficacy of the Convention. Additionally, the judicial decision suggested that the enforcement of Ecuadorian domestic laws and the interpretation of other treaties took priority over implementation of the Convention.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Ecuador were generally enforced in a timely manner. In some cases, Ecuadorian authorities reportedly encountered difficulties attempting to enforce judicial orders and/or locate children, either due to lack of authority or lack of clear procedures.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Ecuador. Of these, one case was opened in 2018. This case has been filed with the Ecuadorian Central Authority. This case was filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, both cases remained open.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Ecuadorian authorities to address issues of concern.





Country Summary: Egypt does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2003, the United States and Egypt signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate consular access to abducted children. In 2018, Egypt demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Egypt persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 91 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for three years and nine months. Egypt was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Egypt for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	18	24	15	20
New Abduction Cases	5	6	8	14
Total Abduction Cases	23	30	23	34
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	7	8	5 (22%)	8
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	2 (9%)	2
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	15	20	16 (69%)	24

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in Egypt worked closely with the United States to discuss ways to improve the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	17	23	11	15
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	17	23	11	15
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	11	15	10	14
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	65%		91%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities of Egypt failed to take appropriate steps to locate a child after the United States submitted a request for assistance, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. As of December 31, 2018, there is one case (accounting for ten percent of the unresolved cases) where the Egyptian authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Egyptian law, and parents face difficulties resolving custody disputes in local courts.

Enforcement: A judicial decision in Egypt was not enforced in one case, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. This case (accounting for 10 percent of the unresolved cases) has been pending for more than 12 months.



Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Egypt to ratify the Convention.



Country Summary: India does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2018, India demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in India persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 71 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for 2 years and 10 months. India was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2014-2018 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received 16 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to India for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	74	84	70	82
New Abduction Cases	15	20	17	20
Total Abduction Cases	89	104	87	102
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	16	18	14 (16%)	18
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	3	4	3 (3%)	3
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	70	82	70 (81%)	81

Significant Developments: In July 2018, India’s Ministry of Women and Child Development directed the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights to constitute a mediation cell to resolve international child custody disputes. Since its inception, this group has been accepting applications from parents in order to assist them with mediating their cases. Mediation is voluntary, and both parents must agree to participate. The United States is not aware of any abduction cases that were resolved through this service in 2018.

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in India regularly failed to work with the Department of State toward the resolution of pending abduction cases. Moreover, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	49	55	44	50
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	7	9
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	49	55	51	59
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	44	50	36	40
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	90%		71%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, six abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Indian authorities.



Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Indian law, and parents face difficulties resolving custody disputes in local courts. Some left-behind parents reported difficulty with serving taking parents in India causing delays in court proceedings. Additionally, judicial action in custody cases in India has been slow, and Indian courts tend to default to granting custody to the taking parent.

Enforcement: While courts in India sometimes granted rights of access to left-behind parents, rights of access were generally not enforced. The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to the return of a child needed to be enforced by the Indian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Indian authorities to address issues of concern. The Department will continue to encourage India to accede to the Convention.



Jordan



Country Summary: Jordan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2006, the United States and Jordan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate consular access to abducted children. In 2018, Jordan demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Jordan persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 67 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years and seven months. Jordan was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2014-2018 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received eight initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Jordan for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	8	11	5	8
New Abduction Cases	3	5	7	10
Total Abduction Cases	11	16	12	18
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	7	7 (58%)	11
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	8	5 (42%)	7

Significant Developments: In 2018, the Government of Jordan began offering mediation services to parents involved in international parental child abductions through the Family Mediation Directorate. Mediation is voluntary, and both parents must agree to participate. The United States is not aware of any abductions cases that were resolved through this service in 2018.

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in Jordan discussed with the United States ways to improve the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the competent authorities have failed to resolve cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	6	3	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	6	3	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	3	4	2	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	75%		67%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Jordanian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Jordanian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Jordanian authorities.



Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Jordan to accede to the Convention.



Lebanon



Country Summary: Lebanon does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2004, the United States and Lebanon signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate consular access to abducted children. In 2018, Lebanon demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in Lebanon persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years and one month. Lebanon was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018 the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Lebanon for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	9	11	6	9
New Abduction Cases	1	3	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	10	14	8	11
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	3	2 (25%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	6	9	6 (75%)	9

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in Lebanon worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Lebanese law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	6	7	4	5
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	2	4
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	6	7	6	9
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	4	5	3	4
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	67%		50%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Lebanese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Lebanese law, and parents face difficulties resolving custody disputes in local courts.

Enforcement: Judicial decisions in Lebanon were generally not enforced, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. There was one case (accounting for 33 percent of the unresolved cases) that has been pending for more than 12 months in which law enforcement has failed to enforce a return order.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Lebanon to accede to the Convention.





Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Peru since 2007. In 2018, Peru demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the Peruvian Central Authority and judicial authorities persistently failed to implement and abide by the provisions of the Convention. As a result of this failure, 50 percent of requests for the return of abducted children under the Convention remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years and seven months. Peru was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2014-2017 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Peru for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	10	13	7	8
New Abduction Cases	3	4	8	10
Total Abduction Cases	13	17	15	18
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	6	9	6 (40%)	7
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	7	8	9 (60%)	11

Significant Developments: In September 2018, the Peruvian Central Authority hosted a seminar for Peruvian family law judges to discuss best practices for Convention implementation, including ways to improve judicial delays.

Central Authority: There have been serious delays in the processing of cases by the Peruvian Central Authority and a lack of effective communication with the U.S. Central Authority regarding IPCA cases, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance. In addition, the Central Authority, which is within the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, has reported that because its mandate includes protecting victims of domestic violence, it will not facilitate the institution of judicial proceedings if there are domestic violence claims by the alleged taking parent, despite an obligation to take all appropriate measures to initiate or facilitate the institution of proceedings under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	9	12	7	8
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	3	3	4
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	12	15	10	12
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	4	5	5	6
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	33%		50%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 31 days.



Judicial Authorities: There were serious delays by the Peruvian judicial authorities in deciding Convention cases. As a result of these delays, cases may be pending with the judiciary for over one year, contributing to a pattern of noncompliance

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Peruvian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Peruvian authorities to address issues of concern.



United Arab Emirates



Country Summary: The United Arab Emirates does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2018, the United Arab Emirates demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance. Specifically, the competent authorities in the United Arab Emirates persistently failed to work with the Department of State to resolve abduction cases. As a result of this failure, 100 percent of requests for the return of abducted children remained unresolved for more than 12 months. On average, these cases were unresolved for two years and seven months. The United Arab Emirates was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018 the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the United Arab Emirates for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	3	3	3
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	4	4	3	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	3 (100%)	3

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in the United Arab Emirates regularly failed to work with the Department of State toward the resolution of pending abduction cases due to a lack of viable legal options, which contributed to a pattern of noncompliance.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	3	3	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	4	3	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2	3	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from Emirati authorities.

Judicial Authorities: There is no clear legal procedure for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Emirati law, and parents face difficulties resolving custody disputes in local courts.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Emirati authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage the United Arab Emirates to accede to the Convention.



**COUNTRIES WITH ONE OR
MORE ABDUCTION CASES**

Albania

Country Summary: While Albania became party to the Convention in 2007, the Convention is not in force between Albania and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Albania for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Albania. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2018, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Albanian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Albanian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Albanian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with Albanian government officials regarding potential partnership.



Algeria

Country Summary: Algeria does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Algeria for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

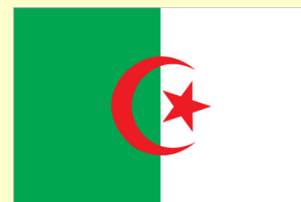
Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in Algeria periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve a pending abduction case. Moreover, the options for resolving this case under Algerian law are limited.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Algerian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Algerian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Algerian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Algeria to accede to the Convention.



Armenia

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Armenia since March 2018.

Significant Developments: The Convention entered into force between the United States and Armenia on March 1, 2018, making Armenia the 78th U.S. Convention partner.

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Armenia. There were no new abduction cases filed with the Armenian Central Authority in 2018, nor were there any Convention cases on file with the Armenian Central Authority during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Armenian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought the Armenian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Armenian authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Armenia. This case was opened in 2018. This case has been filed with the Armenian Central Authority. This case was filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Armenian authorities for more than 12 months.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2018, zero pre-Convention abduction cases remained open in Armenia. In 2018, two pre-Convention cases were resolved.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Armenian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Australia



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Australia since 1988.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Australia for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	5	3	7
New Abduction Cases	3	9	5	6
Total Abduction Cases	8	14	8	13
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	6	5 (63%)	9
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	7	3 (37%)	3

Central Authority: The United States and the Australian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	5	5	3	7
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	9	2	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	8	14	5	9
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	1	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		20%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took less than one week to locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Australia routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Australian authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of one open access case under the Convention in Australia. This case has been filed with the Australian Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, this case remained open. This case has been pending with the Australian authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Australian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Austria

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Austria since 1988.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	2
New Abduction Cases	2	2	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Austria. There were no new cases filed with the Austrian Central Authority in 2018. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Austrian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Austria reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Austrian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Austrian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Azerbaijan

Country Summary: Azerbaijan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1(100%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Azerbaijan have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Azerbaijani law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Azerbaijani authorities.

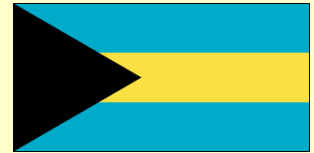
Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Azerbaijani judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Azerbaijani authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Azerbaijan to accede to the Convention.



The Bahamas



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and The Bahamas since 1994. The Department is not aware of any changes to the procedures for resolving abduction cases in The Bahamas, and therefore, the Department remains concerned that future cases may encounter similar challenges as in the past with judicial procedures that are inconsistent with the Convention. The Bahamas was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2011-2018 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	5	3	3
New Abduction Cases	0	0	3	6
Total Abduction Cases	4	5	6	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	6 (100%)	9
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: While the United States and the Bahamian Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	5	3	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	5	3	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, five abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Bahamian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bahamian judiciary in 2018. However, the United States remains concerned with the past practice of the Bahamian judiciary requiring apostilled documents and home studies in all Convention cases. Such requirements are inconsistent with the provisions of the Convention and impeded prompt resolutions in Convention cases.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Bahamian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Bahamian authorities to address issues of concern.



Bangladesh

Country Summary: Bangladesh does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Bangladesh for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	2	2
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	2 (100%)	2

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2018, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Bangladeshi authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bangladeshi judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Bangladeshi authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Bangladesh to accede to the Convention.



Belgium

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Belgium since 1999.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Belgium for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	2
New Abduction Cases	2	2	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	4	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	3 (75%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	1 (25%)	1

Central Authority: While the United States and the Belgian Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Belgian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Belgian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Belgian authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases under the Convention in Belgium. Of these, one case was opened in 2018. All of these cases have been filed with the Belgian Central Authority. One case was filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, two of these cases remained open. One case has been pending with the Belgian authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Belgium Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Bolivia



Country Summary: While Bolivia became party to the Convention in 2016, the Convention is not in force between Bolivia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Bolivia for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	6	4	6
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	4	6	5	7
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (20%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	6	4 (80%)	5

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in Bolivia periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Bolivian law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary resolution.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Bolivian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Bolivian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Bolivian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with Bolivian government officials regarding potential partnership.



Bulgaria

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Bulgaria since 2005.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	2	2	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	3	3	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Bulgarian Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 58 days.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Bulgarian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Bulgarian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Bulgarian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Cambodia

Country Summary: Cambodia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Cambodia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Cambodian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Cambodian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Cambodian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Cambodian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Cambodia to accede to the Convention.



Cameroon

Country Summary: Cameroon does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Abduction Cases	1	2	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	2	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Cameroon. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2018, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Cameroonian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Cameroonian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Cameroonian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Cameroon to accede to the Convention.



Canada

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Canada since 1988.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received five initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Canada for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	6	7	9
New Abduction Cases	20	34	37	52
Total Abduction Cases	24	40	44	61
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	17	31	27 (61%)	39
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	7	9	17 (39%)	21

Central Authority: The United States and the Canadian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	6	7	9
New Cases Filed with the FCA	17	19	33	45
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	21	35	40	54
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		3%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, nine abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took less than one week to locate a child. As of December 31, 2018, there are two open cases where the authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Canada routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Canadian authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of ten open access cases under the Convention in Canada. Of these, four cases were opened in 2018. All ten cases have been filed with the Canadian Central Authority. Four cases were filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, three of the ten open access cases (30 percent) had been resolved. By December 31, 2018, seven (70 percent) remained open. Five cases have been pending with the Canadian authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Canadian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Chile

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Chile since 1994.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Chile for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	4	0	0
New Abduction Cases	1	2	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	5	6	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	5	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Chilean Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	4	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	5	6	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took less than one week to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Chilean judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Chilean authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Chilean Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.





Country Summary: China does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. China was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018 Annual Report. While authorities in China have shown improved cooperation and engagement with the Department of State in 2018, the Department is concerned that options for resolving abduction cases under Chinese law are limited.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to China for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	6	6	5	6
New Abduction Cases	2	3	5	5
Total Abduction Cases	8	9	10	11
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	3	6 (60%)	6
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	6	4 (40%)	5

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in China worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Chinese law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	4	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	4	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		100%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, six abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Chinese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Chinese judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Chinese authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage China to accede to the Convention.



Colombia

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Colombia since 1996. Colombia was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received 13 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Colombia for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	6	7	10
New Abduction Cases	10	15	4	4
Total Abduction Cases	15	21	11	14
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	8	11	9 (82%)	12
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	7	10	2 (18%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the Colombian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention. In 2018, the Colombian Central Authority facilitated a series of workshops to educate Colombian stakeholders including family judges, prosecutors, and social services providers on Colombia's obligations under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	5	6	7	10
New Cases Filed with the FCA	9	14	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	14	20	8	11
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	14%		13%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, five abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 50 days.

Judicial Authorities: Judicial authorities rendered a decision in one case that raised concerns with respect to the broad interpretation of the exceptions to return under the Convention, and judicial authorities did not make determinations promptly.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Colombian authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Colombia. This case has been filed with the Colombian Central Authority. No new access cases were filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, this case remained open. This case has been pending with the Colombian authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Colombian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Costa Rica



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Costa Rica since 2008. Costa Rica was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	3	3
New Abduction Cases	3	3	4	6
Total Abduction Cases	3	3	7	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	4 (57%)	6
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	3 (43%)	3

Central Authority: The United States and the Costa Rican Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	3	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	3	4	6
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3	7	9
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	2	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		29%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took less than one week to locate a child. As of December 31, 2018, there are two open cases where the Costa Rican authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Costa Rican judicial authorities impacted cases during 2018. During the reporting period, two petitions to return children to the United States under the Convention were denied by the Costa Rican judiciary. Some language in these decisions raised concerns that Costa Rican law prioritizes an analysis more appropriate for a custody determination in all matters involving children, including Convention applications. One decision raised additional concerns, opining that Costa Rican law does not allow the Costa Rican judiciary to order a Costa Rican national to depart Costa Rica under any circumstances, even in a Convention case. The Department of State is not aware of any cases where a child was returned to the United States pursuant to a court order under the Convention in the ten-year history of the United States' partnership with Costa Rica under the Convention.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Costa Rican authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of four open access cases under the Convention in Costa Rica. Of these, three cases were opened in 2018. All four cases have been filed with the Costa Rican Central Authority. Three cases were filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, two of these cases (50 percent) had been resolved and two of these cases remained open. No cases have been pending with the Costa Rican authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Costa Rican Central Authority will continue the processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Côte d'Ivoire

Country Summary: Côte d'Ivoire does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Côte d'Ivoire for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	3	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2018, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Ivorian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ivorian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Ivorian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Côte d'Ivoire to accede to the Convention.



Croatia

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Croatia since 1991.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	3
New Abduction Cases	1	3	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	3	1	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	3	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: While the United States and the Croatian Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	3	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	3	1	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance from the Croatian Authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Croatia reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Croatian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Croatian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Cyprus since 1995.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Cyprus for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	2

Central Authority: While the United States and the Cypriot Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Cypriot authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Cypriot judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Cypriot authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Cypriot Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Czech Republic

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Czech Republic since 1998.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	1 (50%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Czech Republic Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		50%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

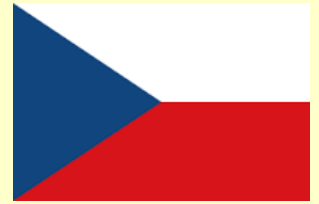
Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Czech Republic authorities.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Czech Republic judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted a case during 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Czech Republic authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Czech Republic. This case has been filed with the Czech Republic Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, this case remained open. No case has been pending with the Czech Republic authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Czech Republic Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Denmark

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Denmark since 1991.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (50%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the Danish Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

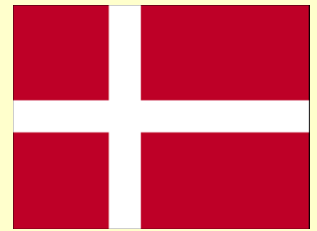
Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was seven days. As of December 31, 2018, there is one case where the Danish authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Denmark reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Danish authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Denmark. This case has been filed with the Danish Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2018. While no cases had been resolved by December 31, 2018, this case was closed for other reasons.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Danish Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Dominican Republic



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Dominican Republic since 2007. While the Department did not cite the Dominican Republic for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2018, the Department is not aware of any changes to the procedures for resolving abduction cases in the Dominican Republic and therefore remains concerned about delays in the judicial process, which resulted in citations for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2014-2018 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Dominican Republic for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	4	5	7
New Abduction Cases	6	7	6	6
Total Abduction Cases	9	11	11	13
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	3	8 (73%)	10
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	5	7	3 (27%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the Dominican Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	4	3	5
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	5	7	4	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	2	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	20%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took less than one week to locate a child. As of December 31, 2018, there is one case where the Dominican Republic authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Dominican Republic reached a timely decision. However, delays by the Dominican judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted this case during 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Dominican authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Dominican authorities to address issues of concern.



El Salvador

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and El Salvador since 2007.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Salvadoran Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 28 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of El Salvador reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Salvadoran authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Salvadoran Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Estonia

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Estonia since 2007.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Estonian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took less than one week to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Estonia reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Estonian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Estonian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Ethiopia

Country Summary: Ethiopia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	3	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	4	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Ethiopia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Ethiopian law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	3	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	3	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Ethiopian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ethiopian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Ethiopian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Ethiopia to accede to the Convention.



Finland

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Finland since 1994.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	3
New Abduction Cases	2	3	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	2	3	3	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	3 (100%)	5
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Finnish Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	3	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 56 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Finland reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Finnish authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Finnish Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



France

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and France since 1988.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to France and Guadeloupe for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	6	7	12
New Abduction Cases	9	17	2	4
Total Abduction Cases	13	23	9	16
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	6	10	3 (33%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (11%)	3
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	7	12	5 (56%)	9

Central Authority: The United States and the French Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	6	6	11
New Cases Filed with the FCA	7	14	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	11	20	8	14
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	1	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		13%	

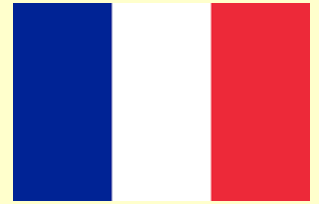
Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was four months and seven days. As of December 31, 2018, there are two open cases where the French authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of France reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the French authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of four open access cases under the Convention in France. Of these, two cases were opened in 2018. All of these cases have been filed with the French Central Authority. Two cases were filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, two of these cases (50 percent) had been resolved. By December 31, 2018, two of these cases remained open. No cases have been pending with the French authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the French Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



The Gambia

Country Summary: The Gambia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of The Gambia. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2018, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Gambian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Gambian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Gambian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage The Gambia to accede to the Convention.



Georgia

Country Summary: While Georgia became party to the Convention in 1997, the Convention is not in force between Georgia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

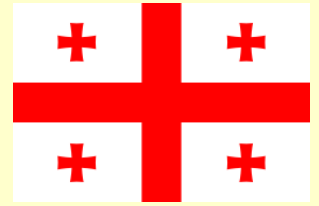
Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Georgia. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2018, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Georgian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Georgia judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Georgian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with Georgian government officials regarding potential partnership.



Germany

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Germany since 1990.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received eight initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Germany for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	10	4	4
New Abduction Cases	9	12	8	10
Total Abduction Cases	14	22	12	14
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	10	18	10 (83%)	12
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	4	2 (17%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the German Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	5	10	4	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	7	9	7	9
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	12	19	11	13
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 11 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Germany routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the German authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of six open access cases under the Convention in Germany. A total of five cases have been filed with the German Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, five cases (83 percent) had been resolved. One case was resolved as a result of a voluntary agreement between the parents. By December 31, 2018, one case remained open. This case has been pending with the German authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the German Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Ghana

Country Summary: Ghana does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Ghana for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	2	5
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	2	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	1 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	3

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Ghana. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2018, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Ghanaian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Ghanaian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Ghanaian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Ghana to accede to the Convention.





Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Greece since 1993.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	4	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	3	5	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	4	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Greek Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	4	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	5	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Greek authorities.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Greek judicial authorities impacted a case during 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Greek authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Greek Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Guatemala

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Guatemala since 2008. While the Department did not cite Guatemala for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2018, the Department is concerned about delays in the judicial process. Guatemala was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2012-2017 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received four initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Guatemala for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	4	3	4
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	3	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (67%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	1 (33%)	1

Significant Developments: The Guatemalan judiciary held training for Guatemalan judges on the Convention in October 2018 with the Department and the Hague Conference on Private International Law participating via video conference. In October 2018, the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala, including Embassy officials from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, facilitated a Guatemalan judge’s participation in the International Hague Network Judges’ Conference in Miami, Florida.

Central Authority: The United States and the Guatemalan Central Authorities have a productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	4	3	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	4	3	4
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	67%		33%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Guatemalan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Guatemalan judicial authorities impacted cases during 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Guatemalan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Guatemalan authorities to address issues of concern.



Guyana



Country Summary: In 2018, Guyana did not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. While Guyana became party to the Convention in 2019, the Convention is not in force between Guyana and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from parents regarding a possible abduction to Guyana for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Guyana. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Guyanese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Guyanese judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Guyanese authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with the Government of Guyana regarding potential partnership.



Honduras

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Honduras since 1994. Honduras was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Honduras for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	4	5
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	4	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	4 (100%)	5
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Honduras Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took less than one week to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Honduran judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Honduran authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Honduran Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Hungary

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Hungary since 1988.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Hungary for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Hungarian Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Hungarian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Hungary reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Hungarian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Hungarian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Indonesia

Country Summary: Indonesia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	9	10	7	7
New Abduction Cases	3	4	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	12	14	8	8
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	6	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	7	7	8 (100%)	8

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in Indonesia worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Indonesian law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	8	9	7	7
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	9	10	7	7
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	6	6	7	7
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	67%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Indonesian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Indonesian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Indonesian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Indonesia to accede to the Convention.



Iran

Country Summary: Iran does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The U.S. government does not have official diplomatic relations with Iran. The Foreign Interests Section of the Swiss Embassy in Tehran performs limited consular services for U.S. citizens in country. Parents should consider the Department’s travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Iran.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	6	6	8
New Abduction Cases	1	2	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	6	8	8	11
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	6	8	8 (100%)	10

Department Recommendations: The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Iraq

Country Summary: While Iraq became party to the Convention in 2014, the Convention is not in force between Iraq and the United States. As a result there is no mechanism for resolving cases under the Convention at this time. The ability of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad to provide consular services to U.S. citizens throughout Iraq, including services related to international parental child abduction, is extremely limited given the security environment. Parents should consider the Department’s travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Iraq.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received six initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Iraq for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	6	3	4
New Abduction Cases	1	3	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	5	9	5	7
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	5	2 (40%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	3 (60%)	4

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2018, the United States did not inform the Iraqi government of reported abduction cases.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Iraqi authorities.

Judicial Authorities: While some abduction cases were resolved by the Iraqi courts, the lack of clear viable legal options for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Iraqi law makes it difficult for Iraq to resolve these cases.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by Iraqi authorities

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with the Government of Iraq regarding potential partnership.



Ireland

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Ireland since 1991.

Central Authority: The United States and the Irish Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of cases under the Convention.

Abductions: There were no open abduction cases in 2018.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority had two open access cases under the Convention in Ireland. Both cases were opened in 2018. These cases have been filed with the Irish Central Authority. Both cases were filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, both of these cases remained open. No cases have been pending with the Irish authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Irish Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Israel, West Bank, and Gaza

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Israel since 1991.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Israel for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	2	2	3
New Abduction Cases	4	11	2	6
Total Abduction Cases	5	13	4	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	10	3 (67%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	1 (33%)	5

Central Authority: The United States and the Israeli Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	2	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	7	1	5
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	9	3	8
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. On average, it took less than one week to locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Israel routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Israel were generally enforced in a timely manner.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Israel Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



West Bank: There are no protocols with respect to international parental child abduction to the West Bank. While the U.S. Embassy is able to provide limited consular services to U.S. citizens in the West Bank, including those related to international parental child abduction, fluctuating security conditions can make this difficult. Parents should consider the Department’s travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to the West Bank. In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of ten open abduction cases in the West Bank. Of these, five were initially opened with the U.S. Central Authority in 2018. By December 31, 2018, one case was resolved and one case was closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2018, eight cases remained open. The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.

Gaza: There are no protocols with respect to the international parental child abduction that are operative in Gaza. The U.S. Embassy is not able to provide consular services to U.S. citizens, including services related to international parental child abduction, in Gaza given the security environment. Parents should consider the Department’s travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Gaza. In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open abduction cases to Gaza. By December 31, 2018, both cases remained open. The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Italy since 1995.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Italy for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	3	4	4
New Abduction Cases	7	8	7	7
Total Abduction Cases	10	11	10	10
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	6	7	7 (70%)	7
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	4	3 (30%)	3

Central Authority: The United States and the Italian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	4	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	6	6	4	4
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	8	8	8	8
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 39 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Italy reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Italian authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Italy. Of these, one case was opened in 2018. One case has been filed with the Italian Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, both cases (100 percent) have been closed for other reasons.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Italian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Jamaica



Country Summary: While Jamaica became party to the Convention in 2017, the Convention was not in force between Jamaica and the United States in 2018. As a result, the Convention was not available for resolving cases in 2018. The Convention entered into force between the United States and Jamaica on April 1, 2019.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received five initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Jamaica for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	2	2
New Abduction Cases	0	0	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	4	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (25%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	1 (25%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Jamaica had regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Jamaican law.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Jamaican authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Jamaican judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Jamaican authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with Jamaican government officials about implementation of the Convention.



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Japan since 2014. While Japan is not being considered to have demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance in 2018, the Department remains highly concerned about both the lack of effective mechanisms for the enforcement of Convention orders and the sizeable number of pre-Convention abduction cases. Japan was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018 Annual Report for failure to enforce court orders to return a child to a left-behind parent in cases where the taking parent objected. For Convention cases in Japan, one of eight cases (12.5 percent) remained unresolved for longer than 12 months. This case, a request for the return of the abducted child, was unresolved for two years and 10 months. In 2018, the Government of Japan drafted legislation to improve enforcement of return orders, and submitted it to the legislature for consideration.

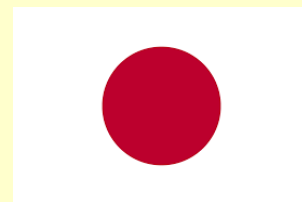
The Department continues to work with Japan to resolve the 18 pre-Convention abduction cases that remained open at the end of the year, all of which have been outstanding for many years. These parents are not able to seek return of their children under the Convention because the Convention was not in force between Japan and the United States at the time of the abduction. Parents who have sought redress in Japanese family courts have often been unable to obtain meaningful access or the return of the child to the United States, even in cases where the court has ruled in their favor.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received six initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Japan for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	6	9	6	10
New Abduction Cases	4	5	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	10	14	8	13
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	4	4 (50%)	8
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	6	10	4 (50%)	5

Significant Developments: Japan’s Justice Ministry has acknowledged the urgency of returning abducted children safely and promptly and has initiated an effort to revise Japanese laws to improve execution of ordered returns of abducted children. The Justice Ministry has specifically drafted a bill to revise the Hague Convention Implementation Act and Civil Execution Act and submitted it to the legislature during its regular session in February 2019. The bill includes significant changes aimed at overcoming obstacles to effective enforcement including the current inability of government authorities to execute judicial return orders where a taking parent refuses to comply.

Central Authority: The United States and the Japanese Central Authorities have a productive relationship that has facilitated the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention. The Japanese Central Authority has focused effectively on preventing abductions, expanding mediation between parents, and promoting voluntary returns, and has made effective efforts to educate the public and raise awareness about remedies available under the Convention.



Japan (continued)

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	5	8	6	10
New Cases Filed with the FCA	4	5	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	9	13	8	13
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	5	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	22%		13%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means, including one voluntary return.

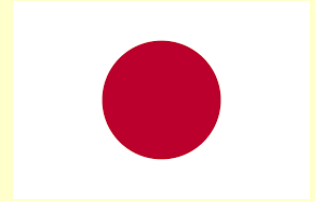
Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 21 days.

Judicial Authorities: While the judicial authorities of Japan have routinely reached timely decisions for Convention cases in the initial return petition, parents have faced appellate and post-appellate challenges and delay in the Japanese court system.

Enforcement: Unless the taking parent voluntarily complied with a return order under the Convention, judicial decisions in Convention cases in Japan were generally not enforced. There is one case (accounting for 12.5 percent of the total cases filed with the FCA) that has been pending for more than 12 months in which law enforcement or other relevant government authorities failed to enforce a return order. Japan’s inability to enforce Convention return orders quickly and effectively appears to stem from elements of Japanese law, particularly requirements that direct enforcement take place in the home and in the presence of the taking parent, and that the child willingly leave the taking parent. Left-behind parents who have obtained Convention return orders can spend more than a year in follow-on legal proceedings seeking a separate order to enforce the Convention order. In one case in which direct enforcement efforts failed in 2017, the left-behind parent attempted to obtain a return under habeas corpus proceedings in civil court in 2018. To date, this effort has failed to result in the child’s return in accordance with the Convention return order. The draft legislation currently under consideration aims to remedy these deficiencies.

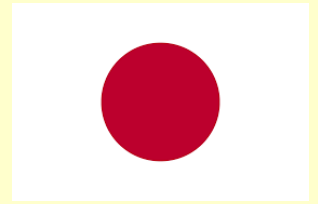
Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of 29 open access cases under the Convention in Japan. Of these, three cases were opened in 2018. A total of 28 cases have been filed with the Japan Central Authority, including the three cases opened in 2018. By December 31, 2018, five cases (17 percent) have been resolved and two cases have been closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2018, 22 remained open. Of these, 19 have been pending with the Japanese authorities for more than 12 months. The total number of Convention access cases at the beginning of 2018 included nine pre-Convention abduction cases that later filed for access under the Convention. Of these, eight remained open at the end of 2018. In addition to filing for Hague access, these left-behind parents continue to seek the return of their abducted children.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2018, 18 total pre-Convention abduction cases remained open in Japan. In seven of these 18 pre-Convention cases the parents also have filed for access under the Convention while retaining their open abduction case. In 11 of the 18 pre-Convention cases the parents have not filed for access under the Convention and continue to seek the return of their children. In 2018, two pre-Convention cases were resolved and two pre-Convention cases were closed for other reasons.



Japan (continued)

Recommendations: The Department will continue engagement with the Japanese authorities to address issues of concern, including encouraging Japanese authorities to develop effective legislation to improve enforcement of return orders and continuing to work with Japanese authorities to successfully resolve pre-Convention abduction cases.



Kenya

Country Summary: Kenya does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Kenya for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	2	3
New Abduction Cases	1	2	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	3	5	3	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	1 (33%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	2 (67%)	2

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Kenya have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Kenyan law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	3	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	3	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		50%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Kenyan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Kenyan judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Kenyan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Kenya to accede to the Convention.



Korea, Republic of

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Republic of Korea since 2013.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the Republic of Korea for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	7	9	6	8
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	8	10	6	8
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	1 (17%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	6	8	5 (83%)	6

Central Authority: The United States and the Korean Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	7	9	6	8
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	8	10	6	8
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		17%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was six months and one day.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Korean judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Korean authorities.

Pre-Convention Case: At the end of 2018, one pre-Convention abduction case remained open in the Republic of Korea.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Korean Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Country Summary: Kuwait does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	3	3
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	3	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	2 (67%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (33%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Kuwait have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Kuwaiti law.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Kuwaiti authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Kuwaiti judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Kuwaiti authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Kuwait to accede to the Convention.



Libya

Country Summary: Libya does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The U.S. government does not have a diplomatic presence in Libya and therefore cannot provide protection or routine consular services to U.S. citizens in Libya, including in cases of international parental child abduction. Parents should consider the Department’s travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Libya.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications asking the government for assistance in resolving the reported abduction whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2018, the United States did not inform the Libyan government of any reported abduction cases.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance to locate any abducted children from the Libyan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Libyan judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by Libyan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Lithuania

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Lithuania since 2007.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	2	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	1	2	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the Lithuanian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		100%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was seven days.

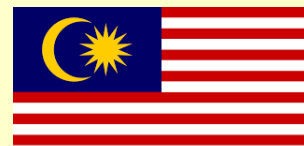
Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Lithuanian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Lithuanian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Lithuanian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Malaysia



Country Summary: Malaysia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	2	2
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in Malaysia periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		50%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Malaysian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Malaysian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Malaysian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Malaysia to accede to the Convention.



Mexico

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Mexico since 1991.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received 67 initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Mexico for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	74	102	59	77
New Abduction Cases	95	133	84	146
Total Abduction Cases	169	235	143	223
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	97	140	85 (59%)	132
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	13	14	8 (6%)	11
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	59	77	50 (35%)	76

Significant Developments: Cooperation between the United States and the Mexican Central Authorities has continued to improve. In 2018, leadership of the Mexican Central Authority intensified engagement with the U. S. Central Authority by traveling to the United States for five bilateral meetings.

Central Authority: The United States and the Mexican Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	61	85	48	64
New Cases Filed with the FCA	54	78	55	98
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	115	163	103	162
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	20	26	20	26
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	17%		19%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, 37 abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was three months and eight days. As of December 31, 2018, there are 22 cases where the Mexican authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Mexico routinely reached timely decisions. However, delays by the Mexican judicial authorities at the appellate level impacted cases during 2018. Delays were often related to the “*amparo*,” a constitutionally based injunction that suspends the effects of a lower court’s decision. The Mexican Supreme Court issued decisions in several long-standing “*amparo*” cases in 2018.



Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in Mexico were generally enforced in a timely manner. There were two cases (accounting for 10 percent of the unresolved cases) pending for more than 12 months, where Mexican law enforcement could not locate the children to enforce the return orders.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of six open access cases under the Convention in Mexico. All of these cases were opened in 2018. A total of five cases have been filed with the Mexican Central Authority. All of these cases were filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, two cases (33 percent) have been resolved and one case has been closed for other reasons. By December 31, 2018, three of these cases remained open. No cases have been pending with the Mexican authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Mexican Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Montenegro

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Montenegro since 1991.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: While the United States and the Montenegrin Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took 62 days to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Montenegrin judicial authorities impacted a case during 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Montenegrin authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Montenegrin Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Morocco

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Morocco since 2012. Morocco was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2018 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Morocco for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	2	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	2	3	3	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	2 (67%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (33%)	1

Central Authority: While the United States and the Moroccan Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. As of December 31, 2018, there are two cases where the Moroccan authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Moroccan judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Moroccan authorities.

Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2018, one pre-Convention abduction case remained open in Morocco.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Moroccan authorities to address issues of concern.



Namibia



Country Summary: Namibia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in Namibia periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Namibian law are limited.

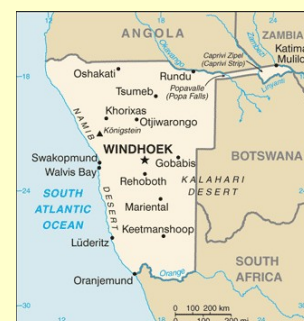
	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Namibian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Namibian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Namibian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Namibia to accede to the Convention.



Netherlands

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Netherlands since 1990.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	3
New Abduction Cases	3	4	3	3
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	5	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	4 (80%)	5
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (20%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	0	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Dutch Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	2	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	4	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was three months and ten days.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Dutch judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Dutch authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Dutch Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



New Zealand

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and New Zealand since 1991.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to New Zealand for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	4	0	0
New Abduction Cases	2	3	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	5	7	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	7	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	2

Central Authority: The United States and the New Zealand Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	3	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	4	6	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 17 days.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the New Zealand judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the New Zealand authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the New Zealand Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Nicaragua

Country Summary: While Nicaragua became party to the Convention in 2000, the Convention is not in force between Nicaragua and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time. The United States will engage in discussions with the Nicaraguan government regarding the establishment of a treaty relationship pursuant to the Convention. Nicaragua was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2017 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	3	3
New Abduction Cases	1	1	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	3	3	3	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (67%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (33%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in Nicaragua periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	3	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3	3	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	2	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	67%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Nicaraguan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Nicaraguan judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Nicaraguan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with Nicaraguan government officials regarding potential partnership.



Nigeria

Country Summary: Nigeria does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Nigeria for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	7	6	12
New Abduction Cases	6	9	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	9	16	6	12
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	4	3 (50%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	6	12	3 (50%)	8

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Nigeria. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2018, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

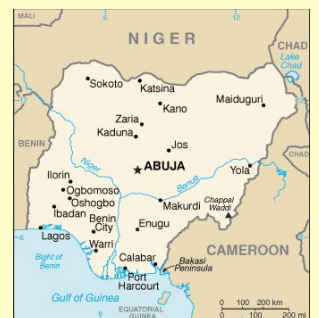
Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Nigerian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Nigerian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Nigerian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Nigeria to accede to the Convention.



North Macedonia

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the Republic of North Macedonia since 1991.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Central Authority of North Macedonia have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the authorities of North Macedonia.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the judiciary of North Macedonia in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the authorities of North Macedonia.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Central Authority of North Macedonia will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Norway

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Norway since 1989.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	0	0
New Abduction Cases	2	3	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	4	5	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	5	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Norwegian Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	4	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took less than one week to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Norway reached a timely decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Norwegian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Norwegian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Country Summary: Oman does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. Oman was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0	0

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in Oman worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Omani law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Omani authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The lack of clear viable legal options for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Omani law makes it difficult for Oman to resolve these cases.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Omani authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Oman to accede to the Convention.



Pakistan



Country Summary: While Pakistan became party to the Convention in 2016, the Convention is not in force between Pakistan and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Pakistani government regarding the establishment of a treaty relationship pursuant to the Convention. Pakistan was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 and 2016 Annual Reports.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received five initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Pakistan for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	19	25	19	27
New Abduction Cases	6	10	7	10
Total Abduction Cases	25	35	26	37
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	6	8	5 (19%)	8
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	3 (12%)	3
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	19	27	18 (69%)	25

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Pakistan have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Pakistani law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	11	13	11	13
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	11	13	12	14
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	11	13	8	9
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		67%	

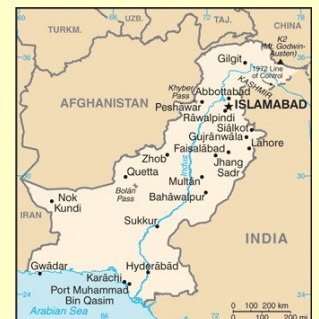
Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, four abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Pakistani authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Pakistani judiciary in 2018. The lack of clear viable legal options for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Pakistani law makes it difficult for Pakistan to resolve some cases.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Pakistani authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with Pakistani government officials regarding potential partnership.



Panama



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Panama since 1994. While the Department did not cite Panama for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in 2018, the Department is concerned about communication barriers with the Panamanian Central Authority and delays in the judicial process. Panama was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2017 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from parents regarding possible abductions to Panama for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	1	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	2

Central Authority: While the United States and the Panamanian Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was three months and six days.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Panamanian judiciary in 2018. However, one case was brought before the judiciary in 2018. The Department continues to be concerned about judicial delays that impede expeditious resolution of abduction cases.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Panamanian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue intense engagement with the Panamanian authorities to address issues of concern.



Paraguay

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Paraguay since 2008.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Paraguay. There were no new cases filed with the Paraguayan Central Authority in 2018, nor were there any cases on file with the Paraguayan Central Authority during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Paraguayan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Paraguayan judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Paraguayan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Paraguayan Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Philippines



Country Summary: While the Philippines became party to the Convention in 2016, the Convention is not in force between the Philippines and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time. The United States is engaged in discussions with the Philippine government regarding Convention partnership.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	13	17	12	15
New Abduction Cases	7	8	6	7
Total Abduction Cases	20	25	18	22
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	8	9	7 (39%)	7
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	12	15	11 (61%)	15

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in the Philippines worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Philippine law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	8	12	10	13
New Cases Filed with the FCA	5	5	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	13	17	10	13
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	7	10	8	11
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	54%		80%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, five abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Philippine authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Philippine judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Philippine authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with Philippine government officials regarding potential partnership.



Poland

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Poland since 1992. Poland was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Poland for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	3	6	6
New Abduction Cases	7	7	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	10	10	6	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	4	5 (83%)	5
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	6	6	1 (17%)	1

Significant Developments: In 2018, Poland enacted a new law that is expected to improve the processing of Convention cases.

Central Authority: While the United States and the Polish Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	6	6
New Cases Filed with the FCA	7	7	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	8	8	6	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		17%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Polish authorities.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Polish judicial authorities impacted cases during 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Polish authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Poland. This case has been filed with the Polish Central Authority. No new cases were filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, this case remained open. This case has been pending with the Polish authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Polish Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Romania

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Romania since 1993. Romania was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2017 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	2	1	2
New Abduction Cases	1	2	1	3
Total Abduction Cases	2	4	2	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	1 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	1 (50%)	3

Central Authority: While the United States and the Romanian Central Authority have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	2	1	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	2	2	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 39 days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Romanian judicial authorities impacted a case during 2018.

Enforcement: While a court in Romania ordered a return under the Convention, the Romanian authorities were not able to enforce this order.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Romanian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Russia

Country Summary: While Russia became party to the Convention in 2011, the Convention is not in force between Russia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Russia for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	32	36	24	28
New Abduction Cases	11	13	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	43	49	26	30
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	14	17	15 (58%)	17
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	5	4	1 (4%)	2
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	24	28	10 (38%)	11

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Russia. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	20	23	12	13
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	20	23	12	13
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	12	13	6	6
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	60%		50%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Russian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: While some abduction cases were resolved by the Russian courts, the lack of clear viable legal options for addressing international parental child abduction cases under Russian law makes it difficult for Russia to resolve these cases.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Russian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with Russian government officials regarding potential partnership.



Saudi Arabia



Country Summary: Saudi Arabia does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. In 2017, the United States and Saudi Arabia signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage voluntary resolution of abduction cases and facilitate consular access to abducted children. Saudi Arabia was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Saudi Arabia for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	6	4	7
New Abduction Cases	1	2	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	4	8	6	10
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (33%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (17%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	7	3 (50%)	5

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Saudi Arabia have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Saudi law and the Saudi government took steps to resolve such cases.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	3	2	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	4	4	7
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	3	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate a child after the United States submitted a request for assistance. The average time to locate a child was ten days.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Saudi judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Saudi authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Saudi Arabia to accede to the Convention.



Senegal

Country Summary: Senegal does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Senegal for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	1	2
New Abduction Cases	1	2	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	1	2	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	2	2 (100%)	3

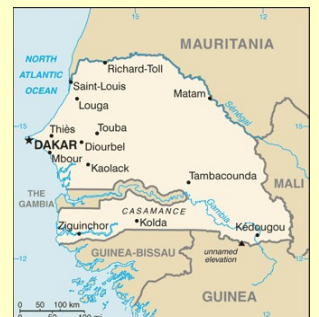
Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Senegal. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2018, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Senegalese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Senegalese judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Senegalese authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Senegal to accede to the Convention.



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Serbia since 1991.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Serbia Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Serbian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Serbian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Serbian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Serbian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Singapore

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Singapore since 2012.

Central Authority: The United States and the Singaporean Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of cases under the Convention.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Singapore for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

Abduction: There were no open abduction cases in 2018.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of two open access cases under the Convention in Singapore. Both of these cases were opened in 2018. Both cases were filed in 2018 with the Singapore Central Authority. As of December 31, 2018, both remained open. No cases have been pending with the Singaporean authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Singaporean Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Slovakia

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Slovakia since 2001. Slovakia was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015 Annual Report.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Slovakia for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Slovak Central Authority have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities took appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. It took less than one week to locate this child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Slovak judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Slovak authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Slovak Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



South Africa

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and South Africa since 1997.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to South Africa for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	2	3
New Abduction Cases	2	2	2	2
Total Abduction Cases	4	5	4	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	2	1 (25%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	3 (75%)	4

Central Authority: While the United States and the South African Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	3	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	3	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	4	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	2	1	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	50%		25%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was eight days.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the South African judicial authorities impacted cases during 2018.

Enforcement: Decisions in Convention cases in South Africa were generally enforced in a timely manner.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the South African Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Spain

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Spain since 1988. While Spain worked with the Department to resolve abduction cases in 2018, the Department is concerned about a decision taken by the Spanish Central Authority to dismiss an application under the Convention prior to the petition reaching the proper judicial authority.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	5	2	4
New Abduction Cases	3	3	5	8
Total Abduction Cases	7	8	7	12
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	7	5 (72%)	8
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (14%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	4	1 (14%)	3

Central Authority: While the United States and the Spanish Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	5	2	4
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2	2	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	6	7	4	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was seven months and 25 days. As of December 31, 2018, there is one case where the Spanish authorities remain unable to initially locate a child. Delays in locating children were likely exacerbated by communication delays with the Spanish Central Authority.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Spain routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Spanish authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Spain. This case was opened in 2018. This case has been filed with the Spanish Central Authority. This case was filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, this case remained open. No case has been pending with the Spanish authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Spanish Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Sweden

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Sweden since 1989.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received two initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Sweden for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	2
New Abduction Cases	3	3	3	4
Total Abduction Cases	3	3	5	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	1	3 (60%)	3
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (20%)	2
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	1 (20%)	1

Central Authority: The United States and the Swedish Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	3	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3	4	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 47 days.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Swedish judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Swedish authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Sweden Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Switzerland

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Switzerland since 1988.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received three initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Switzerland for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	2
New Abduction Cases	2	2	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	2	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (100%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	2	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Swiss Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	2	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	2	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	2	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 23 days.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Swiss judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Swiss authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of three open access cases under the Convention in Switzerland. Of these, one case was opened in 2018. All of these cases have been filed with the Swiss Central Authority. One case was filed in 2018. By December 31, 2018, all of these cases (100 percent) had been resolved.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Swiss Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Syria

Country Summary: Syria does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The U.S. government does not have a diplomatic presence in Syria and therefore cannot provide protection or routine consular services to U.S. citizens in Syria, including in cases of international parental child abduction. Parents should consider the Department’s travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Syria.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	3	4
New Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	4	5
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (25%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	4	3 (75%)	4

Central Authority: The Department of State sends applications whenever diplomatic and security considerations permit, unless doing so would put parents or children at risk or is not consistent with the wishes of the left-behind parent. In 2018, the United States did not inform the Syrian government of reported abduction cases.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Syrian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Syrian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Syrian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Taiwan

Summary: Due to its unique political and diplomatic status, Taiwan cannot become party to the Convention. Therefore, the remedies available under the Convention are not available with respect to Taiwan. While Taiwan does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction, Taiwan authorities are seeking to identify other approaches to resolve abduction issues.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	3	4	2	3
New Abduction Cases	2	2	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	5	6	3	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	3	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	3 (100%)	4

Central Authority: The American Institute in Taiwan and the competent authorities in Taiwan have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Taiwan law.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	3	4	2	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	4	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	2	3	2	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	67%		100%	

Location: The American Institute in Taiwan did not request assistance with location from the Taiwan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Taiwan judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Taiwan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The American Institute in Taiwan will continue to engage with Taiwan authorities to improve the resolution of abduction cases in Taiwan in the absence of remedies available under the Convention.



Tanzania

Country Summary: Tanzania does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Tanzania. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2018, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Tanzanian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Tanzanian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Tanzanian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Tanzania to accede to the Convention.



Thailand

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Thailand since 2016.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	3	3
New Abduction Cases	3	3	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	3	3	5	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	2 (40%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	3 (60%)	4

Central Authority: While the United States and the Thai Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	3	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	3	3	2	3
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	3	3	5	6
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In some cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was five months and 16 days. As of December 31, 2018, there is one case where the Thai authorities remain unable to initially locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Thai judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Thai authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Thai Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Tonga

Country Summary: Tonga does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (100%)	1

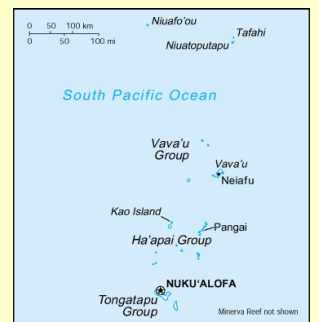
Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Tonga have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Tongan law.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Tongan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Tongan judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Tongan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will encourage Tonga to accede to the Convention.



Trinidad and Tobago



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Trinidad and Tobago since 2013. Trinidad and Tobago did not demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance in 2018. However, the Department continues to urge Trinidad and Tobago to resolve a pre-Convention abduction case, which has been outstanding for many years.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received five initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Trinidad and Tobago for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	6	3	6
New Abduction Cases	3	4	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	7	10	5	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	4	2(40%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0(0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	6	3(60%)	7

Central Authority: The United States and the Trinidad and Tobago Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	4	6	3	6
New Cases Filed with the FCA	2	3	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	6	9	4	8
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	3	1	3
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	17%		25%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 39 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of Trinidad and Tobago routinely reached timely decisions in Convention cases. However, delays by the Trinidad and Tobago judicial authorities at the appellate level significantly impacted a case during 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Trinidad and Tobago authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention that has been filed with the Trinidad and Tobago Central Authority. As of December 31, 2018, this case remained open. This case has been pending with the Trinidad and Tobago authorities for more than 12 months. No new cases were filed in 2018.



Pre-Convention Cases: At the end of 2018, one pre-Convention abduction case remained open in Trinidad and Tobago. The Department proactively monitors this case and raises its concerns with senior officials in the Government of Trinidad and Tobago at every appropriate opportunity.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Trinidad and Tobago Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Tunisia

Country Summary: While Tunisia became party to the Convention in 2017, the Convention is not in force between Tunisia and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time. The United States is engaged with the Tunisian government regarding the establishment of a treaty relationship pursuant to the Convention. Tunisia was previously cited for demonstrating a pattern of noncompliance in the 2015-2017 Annual Reports.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	5	0	0
New Abduction Cases	0	0	2	4
Total Abduction Cases	5	5	2	4
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	5	5	1 (50%)	2
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	0	0	1 (50%)	2

Central Authority: International parental child abduction was part of our regular consular dialogue with the Government of Tunisia. There were no new cases filed with the competent authorities in 2018, nor were there any cases on file with the competent authorities during the year. Additionally, there were no cases that were unresolved for more than 12 months.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	2	2	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	2	0	0
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Tunisian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases decided by the Tunisian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Tunisian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to engage with Tunisian government officials regarding potential partnership.



Turkey

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Turkey since 2000.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received six initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to Turkey for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	9	4	3
New Abduction Cases	0	0	7	9
Total Abduction Cases	5	9	11	12
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	4 (36%)	4
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	3	7 (64%)	8

Central Authority: While the United States and the Turkish Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	5	9	4	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	3	5
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	5	9	7	8
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, three abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: In most cases, the competent authorities delayed taking appropriate steps to locate a child after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was nine months. As of December 31, 2018, there are three cases where the Turkish authorities remain unable to locate a child.

Judicial Authorities: Delays by the Turkish judicial authorities impacted cases during 2018.

Enforcement: While a court in Turkey ordered a return under the Convention, the left-behind parent had to pursue additional legal steps after the return order to request law enforcement authorities to carry out the order. The Turkish court system does not automatically enforce orders without further legal action by the left-behind parent’s legal counsel through the enforcement office.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Turkey. This case has been filed with the Turkish Central Authority. By December 31, 2018, this case (100 percent) had been resolved. No new cases were filed in 2018.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Turkish Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Uganda

Country Summary: Uganda does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Uganda for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	3	2	3
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	2	3	2	3
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	2	3	2	3

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in Uganda worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Uganda law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	2	1	2
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	1
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	2	2	3
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	2	1	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		50%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Ugandan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ugandan judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Ugandan authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Uganda to accede to the Convention.



Ukraine

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Ukraine since 2007.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	6	7	3	3
New Abduction Cases	1	1	2	3
Total Abduction Cases	7	8	5	6
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	5	5 (100%)	6
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	3	3	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: While the United States and the Ukrainian Central Authorities have a cooperative relationship, delays in communication about actions to resolve Convention cases are an area of continuing concern.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	6	7	3	3
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	7	8	4	5
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	14%		0%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, two abduction cases were resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Ukrainian authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Ukrainian judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Ukrainian authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Ukrainian Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



United Kingdom



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and the United Kingdom since 1988. The statistics below include cases in the British dependencies of Anguilla and Bermuda.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received eight initial inquiries from parents regarding possible abductions to the United Kingdom for which no completed applications were submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	6	9	9	11
New Abduction Cases	14	18	14	16
Total Abduction Cases	20	27	23	27
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	11	15	9 (39%)	11
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	1 (4%)	1
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	9	11	13 (57%)	15

Central Authority: The United States and the British Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	5	8	9	11
New Cases Filed with the FCA	12	15	12	14
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	17	23	21	25
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	1	2
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		5%	

Voluntary Resolution: The Convention states that central authorities “shall take all appropriate measures to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues.” In 2018, one abduction case was resolved through voluntary means.

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 61 days.

Judicial Authorities: The judicial authorities of the United Kingdom routinely reached timely decisions.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the British authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority acted on a total of seven open access cases under the Convention in the United Kingdom. Of these, three cases were opened in 2018. One case was filed in 2018. A total of five cases have been filed with the British Central Authority. By December 31, 2018, one case (14 percent) had been resolved and six cases remained open. Three cases have been pending with the British authorities for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the British Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Uruguay

Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Uruguay since 2004.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	1	1	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (100%)	0

Central Authority: The United States and the Uruguayan Central Authorities have a strong and productive relationship that facilitates the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	1	1	1	1
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	100%		100%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Uruguayan authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Uruguayan judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: While a court in Uruguay ordered a return under the Convention, the Uruguayan authorities were not able to enforce this order. This case (accounting for 100 percent of the unresolved cases) has been pending for more than 12 months.

Department Recommendations: The Department and the Uruguayan Central Authority will continue the effective processing and resolution of cases under the Convention.



Uzbekistan



Country Summary: While Uzbekistan became party to the Convention in 1999, the Convention is not in force between Uzbekistan and the United States. As a result, the Convention is not available for resolving cases at this time.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from a parent regarding a possible abduction to Uzbekistan for which no additional assistance was requested or necessary documentation was not received as of December 31, 2018.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	5	5	1	1
New Abduction Cases	0	0	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	5	5	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	4	4	1 (50%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	1 (50%)	1

Central Authority: In 2018, the competent authorities in Uzbekistan periodically declined to communicate or work with the Department of State to resolve pending abduction cases. Moreover, the options for resolving these cases under Uzbek law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	1	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	1	1	0	0
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Uzbek authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Uzbek judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Uzbek authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will engage with Uzbek government officials regarding potential partnership.



Venezuela



Country Summary: The Convention has been in force between the United States and Venezuela since 1997. On March 11, 2019, the U.S. Department of State announced the temporary suspension of operations in Venezuela. All consular services, routine and emergency, were suspended until further notice at that time. Parents should consider the Department’s travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Venezuela.

Initial Inquiries: In 2018, the Department received one initial inquiry from parents regarding possible abductions to Venezuela for which no completed application was submitted to the Department.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	1	2	1	1
New Abduction Cases	2	2	0	0
Total Abduction Cases	3	4	1	1
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	2	3	1 (100%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	0 (0%)	0

Central Authority: In calendar year 2018 the United States and the Venezuelan Central Authorities had a strong and productive relationship that facilitated the resolution of abduction cases under the Convention.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	1	2	1	1
New Cases Filed with the FCA	1	1	0	0
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	2	3	1	1
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The competent authorities regularly took appropriate steps to locate children after a Convention application was filed. The average time to locate a child was 70 days.

Judicial Authorities: One Convention case was decided by the Venezuelan judiciary in 2018. While this case was decided in a timely manner, the left-behind parent reportedly has not received a copy of the court decision.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Venezuelan authorities.

Access: In 2018, the U.S. Central Authority had one open access case under the Convention in Venezuela. This case was opened in 2018. This case was filed with the Venezuelan Central Authority in 2018 and as of December 31, 2018, this case remained open. No cases have been pending with the Venezuelan authorities for more than 12 months

Department Recommendations: The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



Vietnam

Country Summary: Vietnam does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	2	2	1	1
New Abduction Cases	2	3	1	1
Total Abduction Cases	4	5	2	2
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	3	4	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0 (0%)	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	1	1	2 (100%)	2

Central Authority: The Department of State and the competent authorities in Vietnam have regular and productive discussions on the best ways to resolve pending abduction cases under Vietnamese law.

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Vietnamese authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Vietnamese judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases in which a judicial order relating to international parental child abduction needed to be enforced by the Vietnamese authorities.

Department Recommendations: The Department will continue to encourage Vietnam to accede to the Convention.



Yemen

Country Summary: Yemen does not adhere to any protocols with respect to international parental child abduction. The U.S. government does not have a diplomatic presence in Yemen and therefore cannot provide protection or routine consular services to U.S. citizens in Yemen, including in cases of international parental child abduction. Parents should consider the Department’s travel advisory carefully when contemplating travel to Yemen.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Open at the Start of the Year	4	7	4	7
New Abduction Cases	1	2	1	2
Total Abduction Cases	5	9	5	9
Abduction Cases Resolved During the Year	1	2	1 (20%)	1
Abduction Cases Closed During the Year	0	0	0	0
Abduction Cases Still Open at the End of the Year	4	7	4 (80%)	8

Central Authority: In 2018, Yemeni officials worked closely with the Department of State to discuss improvements to the resolution of pending abduction cases. However, the options for resolving these cases under Yemeni law are limited.

	Cases	Children	Cases	Children
	2017	2017	2018	2018
Abduction Cases Filed with the FCA at the Start of the Year	0	0	0	0
New Cases Filed with the FCA	0	0	1	2
Total Cases on File with the FCA During the Year	0	0	1	2
Cases That Have Been Unresolved for Over 12 Months	0	0	0	0
FCA Caseload Unresolved at the End of the Year	0%		0%	

Location: The Department of State did not request assistance with location from the Yemeni authorities.

Judicial Authorities: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Yemeni judiciary in 2018.

Enforcement: The United States is not aware of any abduction cases brought before the Yemeni judiciary in 2018.

Department Recommendations: The Department recommends an emphasis on preventing abductions.



APPENDICES

CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

Article 7

CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION (Concluded 25 October 1980)

The States signatory to the present Convention,
Firmly convinced that the interests of children are of paramount
importance in matters relating to their custody,
Desiring to protect children internationally from the harmful effects of
their wrongful removal or retention and to establish procedures to ensure
their prompt return to the State of their habitual residence, as well as to
secure protection for rights of access,
Have resolved to conclude a Convention to this effect, and have agreed
upon the following provisions -

CHAPTER I - SCOPE OF THE CONVENTION

Article 1

The objects of the present Convention are -

- a) to secure the prompt return of children wrongfully removed to or retained in any Contracting State; and
- b) to ensure that rights of custody and of access under the law of one Contracting State are effectively respected in the other Contracting States.

Article 2

Contracting States shall take all appropriate measures to secure within their territories the implementation of the objects of the Convention. For this purpose they shall use the most expeditious procedures available.

Article 3

The removal or the retention of a child is to be considered wrongful where -

- a) it is in breach of rights of custody attributed to a person, an institution or any other body, either jointly or alone, under the law of the State in which the child was habitually resident immediately before the removal or retention; and
- b) at the time of removal or retention those rights were actually exercised, either jointly or alone, or would have been so exercised but for the removal or retention.

The rights of custody mentioned in sub-paragraph a) above, may arise in particular by operation of law or by reason of a judicial or administrative decision, or by reason of an agreement having legal effect under the law of that State.

Article 4

The Convention shall apply to any child who was habitually resident in a Contracting State immediately before any breach of custody or access rights. The Convention shall cease to apply when the child attains the age of 16 years.

Article 5

For the purposes of this Convention -

- a) "rights of custody" shall include rights relating to the care of the person of the child and, in particular, the right to determine the child's place of residence;
- b) "rights of access" shall include the right to take a child for a limited period of time to a place other than the child's habitual residence.

CHAPTER II - CENTRAL AUTHORITIES

Article 6

A Contracting State shall designate a Central Authority to discharge the duties which are imposed by the Convention upon such authorities. Federal States, States with more than one system of law or States having autonomous territorial organisations shall be free to appoint more than one Central Authority and to specify the territorial extent of their powers. Where a State has appointed more than one Central Authority, it shall designate the Central Authority to which applications may be addressed for transmission to the appropriate Central Authority within that State.

Central Authorities shall co-operate with each other and promote co-operation amongst the competent authorities in their respective States to secure the prompt return of children and to achieve the other objects of this Convention.

In particular, either directly or through any intermediary, they shall take all appropriate measures -

- a) to discover the whereabouts of a child who has been wrongfully removed or retained;
- b) to prevent further harm to the child or prejudice to interested parties by taking or causing to be taken provisional measures;
- c) to secure the voluntary return of the child or to bring about an amicable resolution of the issues;
- d) to exchange, where desirable, information relating to the social background of the child;
- e) to provide information of a general character as to the law of their State in connection with the application of the Convention;
- f) to initiate or facilitate the institution of judicial or administrative proceedings with a view to obtaining the return of the child and, in a proper case, to make arrangements for organising or securing the effective exercise of rights of access;
- g) where the circumstances so require, to provide or facilitate the provision of legal aid and advice, including the participation of legal counsel and advisers;
- h) to provide such administrative arrangements as may be necessary and appropriate to secure the safe return of the child;
- i) to keep each other informed with respect to the operation of this Convention and, as far as possible, to eliminate any obstacles to its application.

CHAPTER III - RETURN OF CHILDREN

Article 8

Any person, institution or other body claiming that a child has been removed or retained in breach of custody rights may apply either to the Central Authority of the child's habitual residence or to the Central Authority of any other Contracting State for assistance in securing the return of the child.

The application shall contain -

- a) information concerning the identity of the applicant, of the child and of the person alleged to have removed or retained the child;
 - b) where available, the date of birth of the child;
 - c) the grounds on which the applicant's claim for return of the child is based;
 - d) all available information relating to the whereabouts of the child and the identity of the person with whom the child is presumed to be.
- The application may be accompanied or supplemented by -
- e) an authenticated copy of any relevant decision or agreement;
 - f) a certificate or an affidavit emanating from a Central Authority, or other competent authority of the State of the child's habitual residence, or from a qualified person, concerning the relevant law of that State;
 - g) any other relevant document.

Article 9

If the Central Authority which receives an application referred to in Article 8 has reason to believe that the child is in another Contracting State, it shall directly and without delay transmit the application to the Central Authority of that Contracting State and inform the requesting Central Authority, or the applicant, as the case may be.

Article 10

The Central Authority of the State where the child is shall take or cause to be taken all appropriate measures in order to obtain the voluntary return of the child.

Article 11

The judicial or administrative authorities of Contracting States shall act expeditiously in proceedings for the return of children.

If the judicial or administrative authority concerned has not reached a decision within six weeks from the date of commencement of the proceedings, the applicant or the Central Authority of the requested State, on its own initiative or if asked by the Central Authority of the requesting State, shall have the right to request a statement of the reasons for the delay. If a reply is received by the Central Authority of the requested State, that Authority shall transmit the reply to the Central Authority of the requesting State, or to the applicant, as the case may be.

Article 12

Where a child has been wrongfully removed or retained in terms of Article 3 and, at the date of the commencement of the proceedings before the judicial or administrative authority of the Contracting State where the child is, a period of less than one year has elapsed from the date of the wrongful removal or retention, the authority concerned shall order the return of the child forthwith.

The judicial or administrative authority, even where the proceedings have been commenced after the expiration of the period of one year referred to in the preceding paragraph, shall also order the return of the child, unless it is demonstrated that the child is now settled in its new environment. Where the judicial or administrative authority in the requested State has reason to believe that the child has been taken to another State, it may stay the proceedings or dismiss the application for the return of the child.

Article 13

Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding Article, the judicial or administrative authority of the requested State is not bound to order the return of the child if the person, institution or other body which opposes its return establishes that -

- a) the person, institution or other body having the care of the person of the child was not actually exercising the custody rights at the time of removal or retention, or had consented to or subsequently acquiesced in the removal or retention; or
- b) there is a grave risk that his or her return would expose the child to physical or psychological harm or otherwise place the child in an intolerable situation.

The judicial or administrative authority may also refuse to order the return of the child if it finds that the child objects to being returned and has attained an age and degree of maturity at which it is appropriate to take account of its views.

In considering the circumstances referred to in this Article, the judicial and administrative authorities shall take into account the information relating to the social background of the child provided by the Central Authority or other competent authority of the child's habitual residence.

Article 14

In ascertaining whether there has been a wrongful removal or retention within the meaning of Article 3, the judicial or administrative authorities of the requested State may take notice directly of the law of, and of judicial or administrative decisions, formally recognised or not in the State of the habitual residence of the child, without recourse to the specific procedures for the proof of that law or for the recognition of foreign decisions which would otherwise be applicable.

Article 15

The judicial or administrative authorities of a Contracting State may, prior to the making of an order for the return of the child, request that the applicant obtain from the authorities of the State of the habitual residence of the child a decision or other determination that the removal or retention was wrongful within the meaning of Article 3 of the Convention, where such a decision or determination may be obtained in that State. The Central Authorities of the Contracting States shall so far as practicable assist applicants to obtain such a decision or determination.

Article 16

After receiving notice of a wrongful removal or retention of a child in the sense of Article 3, the judicial or administrative authorities of the Contracting State to which the child has been removed or in which it has been retained shall not decide on the merits of rights of custody until it has been determined that the child is not to be returned under this Convention or unless an application under this Convention is not lodged within a reasonable time following receipt of the notice.

Article 17

The sole fact that a decision relating to custody has been given in or is entitled to recognition in the requested State shall not be a ground for refusing to return a child under this Convention, but the judicial or administrative authorities of the requested State may take account of the reasons for that decision in applying this Convention.

Article 18

The provisions of this Chapter do not limit the power of a judicial or administrative authority to order the return of the child at any time.

Article 19

A decision under this Convention concerning the return of the child shall not be taken to be a determination on the merits of any custody issue.

Article 20

The return of the child under the provisions of Article 12 may be refused if this would not be permitted by the fundamental principles of the requested State relating to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

CHAPTER IV - RIGHTS OF ACCESS

Article 21

An application to make arrangements for organising or securing the effective exercise of rights of access may be presented to the Central Authorities of the Contracting States in the same way as an application for the return of a child.

The Central Authorities are bound by the obligations of co-operation which are set forth in Article 7 to promote the peaceful enjoyment of access rights and the fulfilment of any conditions to which the exercise of those rights may be subject. The Central Authorities shall take steps to remove, as far as possible, all obstacles to the exercise of such rights. The Central Authorities, either directly or through intermediaries, may initiate or assist in the institution of proceedings with a view to organising or protecting these rights and securing respect for the conditions to which the exercise of these rights may be subject.

CHAPTER V - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 22

No security, bond or deposit, however described, shall be required to guarantee the payment of costs and expenses in the judicial or administrative proceedings falling within the scope of this Convention.

Article 23

No legalisation or similar formality may be required in the context of this Convention.

Article 24

Any application, communication or other document sent to the Central Authority of the requested State shall be in the original language, and shall be accompanied by a translation into the official language or one of the official languages of the requested State or, where that is not feasible, a translation into French or English.

However, a Contracting State may, by making a reservation in accordance with Article 42, object to the use of either French or English, but not both, in any application, communication or other document sent to its Central Authority.

Article 25

Nationals of the Contracting States and persons who are habitually resident within those States shall be entitled in matters concerned with the application of this Convention to legal aid and advice in any other Contracting State on the same conditions as if they themselves were nationals of and habitually resident in that State.

Article 26

Each Central Authority shall bear its own costs in applying this Convention.

Central Authorities and other public services of Contracting States shall not impose any charges in relation to applications submitted under this Convention. In particular, they may not require any payment from the applicant towards the costs and expenses of the proceedings or, where applicable, those arising from the participation of legal counsel or advisers. However, they may require the payment of the expenses incurred or to be incurred in implementing the return of the child. However, a Contracting State may, by making a reservation in accordance with Article 42, declare that it shall not be bound to assume any costs referred to in the preceding paragraph resulting from the participation of legal counsel or advisers or from court proceedings, except insofar as those costs may be covered by its system of legal aid and advice.

Upon ordering the return of a child or issuing an order concerning rights of access under this Convention, the judicial or administrative authorities may, where appropriate, direct the person who removed or retained the child, or who prevented the exercise of rights of access, to pay necessary expenses incurred by or on behalf of the applicant, including travel expenses, any costs incurred or payments made for locating the child, the costs of legal representation of the applicant, and those of returning the child.

Article 27

When it is manifest that the requirements of this Convention are not fulfilled or that the application is otherwise not well founded, a Central Authority is not bound to accept the application. In that case, the Central Authority shall forthwith inform the applicant or the Central Authority through which the application was submitted, as the case may be, of its reasons.

Article 28

A Central Authority may require that the application be accompanied by a written authorisation empowering it to act on behalf of the applicant, or to designate a representative so to act.

Article 29

This Convention shall not preclude any person, institution or body who claims that there has been a breach of custody or access rights within the meaning of Article 3 or 21 from applying directly to the judicial or administrative authorities of a Contracting State, whether or not under the provisions of this Convention.

Article 30

Any application submitted to the Central Authorities or directly to the judicial or administrative authorities of a Contracting State in accordance with the terms of this Convention, together with documents and any other information appended thereto or provided by a Central Authority, shall be admissible in the courts or administrative authorities of the Contracting States.

Article 31

In relation to a State which in matters of custody of children has two or more systems of law applicable in different territorial units -

- a) any reference to habitual residence in that State shall be construed as referring to habitual residence in a territorial unit of that State;
- b) any reference to the law of the State of habitual residence shall be construed as referring to the law of the territorial unit in that State where

the child habitually resides.

Article 32

In relation to a State which in matters of custody of children has two or more systems of law applicable to different categories of persons, any reference to the law of that State shall be construed as referring to the legal system specified by the law of that State.

Article 33

A State within which different territorial units have their own rules of law in respect of custody of children shall not be bound to apply this Convention where a State with a unified system of law would not be bound to do so.

Article 34

This Convention shall take priority in matters within its scope over the *Convention of 5 October 1961 concerning the powers of authorities and the law applicable in respect of the protection of minors*, as between Parties to both Conventions. Otherwise the present Convention shall not restrict the application of an international instrument in force between the State of origin and the State addressed or other law of the State addressed for the purposes of obtaining the return of a child who has been wrongfully removed or retained or of organising access rights.

Article 35

This Convention shall apply as between Contracting States only to wrongful removals or retentions occurring after its entry into force in those States.

Where a declaration has been made under Article 39 or 40, the reference in the preceding paragraph to a Contracting State shall be taken to refer to the territorial unit or units in relation to which this Convention applies.

Article 36

Nothing in this Convention shall prevent two or more Contracting States, in order to limit the restrictions to which the return of the child may be subject, from agreeing among themselves to derogate from any provisions of this Convention which may imply such a restriction.

CHAPTER VI - FINAL CLAUSES

Article 37

The Convention shall be open for signature by the States which were Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law at the time of its Fourteenth Session.

It shall be ratified, accepted or approved and the instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Article 38

Any other State may accede to the Convention.

The instrument of accession shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The Convention shall enter into force for a State acceding to it on the first day of the third calendar month after the deposit of its instrument of accession.

The accession will have effect only as regards the relations between the acceding State and such Contracting States as will have declared their acceptance of the accession. Such a declaration will also have to be made by any Member State ratifying, accepting or approving the Convention after an accession. Such declaration shall be deposited at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; this Ministry shall forward, through diplomatic channels, a certified copy to each of the Contracting States.

The Convention will enter into force as between the acceding State and the State that has declared its acceptance of the accession on the first day of the third calendar month after the deposit of the declaration of acceptance.

Article 39

Any State may, at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, declare that the Convention shall extend to all the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible, or to one or more of them. Such a declaration shall take effect at the time the Convention enters into force for that State.

Such declaration, as well as any subsequent extension, shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Article 40

If a Contracting State has two or more territorial units in which different systems of law are applicable in relation to matters dealt with in this Convention, it may at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession declare that this Convention shall extend to all its territorial units or only to one or more of them and may modify this declaration by submitting another declaration at any time.

Any such declaration shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and shall state expressly the territorial units to which the Convention applies.

Article 41

Where a Contracting State has a system of government under which executive, judicial and legislative powers are distributed between central and other authorities within that State, its signature or ratification, acceptance or approval of, or accession to this Convention, or its making of any declaration in terms of Article 40 shall carry no implication as to the internal distribution of powers within that State.

Article 42

Any State may, not later than the time of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, or at the time of making a declaration in terms of Article 39 or 40, make one or both of the reservations provided for in Article 24 and Article 26, third paragraph. No other reservation shall be permitted.

Any State may at any time withdraw a reservation it has made. The withdrawal shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The reservation shall cease to have effect on the first day of the third calendar month after the notification referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Article 43

The Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the third calendar month after the deposit of the third instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession referred to in Articles 37 and 38.

Thereafter the Convention shall enter into force -

(1) for each State ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to it subsequently, on the first day of the third calendar month after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;

(2) for any territory or territorial unit to which the Convention has been extended in conformity with Article 39 or 40, on the first day of the third calendar month after the notification referred to in that Article.

Article 44

The Convention shall remain in force for five years from the date of its entry into force in accordance with the first paragraph of Article 43 even for States which subsequently have ratified, accepted, approved it or acceded to it. If there has been no denunciation, it shall be renewed tacitly every five years.

Any denunciation shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at least six months before the expiry of the five year period. It may be limited to certain of the territories or territorial units to which the Convention applies.

The denunciation shall have effect only as regards the State which has notified it. The Convention shall remain in force for the other Contracting States.

Article 45

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands shall notify the States Members of the Conference, and the States which have acceded in accordance with Article 38, of the following -

- (1) the signatures and ratifications, acceptances and approvals referred to in Article 37;
- (2) the accessions referred to in Article 38;
- (3) the date on which the Convention enters into force in accordance with Article 43;
- (4) the extensions referred to in Article 39;
- (5) the declarations referred to in Articles 38 and 40;
- (6) the reservations referred to in Article 24 and Article 26, third paragraph, and the withdrawals referred to in Article 42;
- (7) the denunciations referred to in Article 44.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done at The Hague, on the 25th day of October, 1980, in the English and French languages, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and of which a certified copy shall be sent, through diplomatic channels, to each of the States Members of the Hague Conference on Private International Law at the date of its Fourteenth Session.

INFORMATIVE LINKS

American Bar Association

www.americanbar.org/

Department of Justice
Office of Violence Against Women

www.justice.gov/ovw

Federal Bureau of Investigation

www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/cac
www.fbi.gov/contact-us

Hague Conference Permanent Bureau
Child Abduction Section

www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/specialised-sections/child-abduction

International Social Service (ISS-USA)

www.iss-usa.org/

National Center for Missing
and Exploited Children

www.missingkids.com/

The Office of the Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and
Families

www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/about

Office of Victims of Crime (OVC)

www.ovc.gov/

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

www.cbp.gov/travel/international-child-abduction-prevention-and-return-act







U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services—Resources for Families

www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/domviolence/resources

U.S. Department of State
Office of Children's Issues

www.travel.state.gov/content/childabduction/en.html

2018 IPCA CASES BY U.S. STATE

	Alabama								
	Italy	1		Peru	2		Chile	1	
	Korea, Republic of	1		Philippines	7		China	1	
	Mexico	2		Russia	4		Colombia	11	
				South Africa	2		Dominica	1	
				Spain	1		Ecuador	3	
	Alaska			Sweden	4		Egypt	1	
	Chile	1		Switzerland	1		Finland	2	
	Philippines	1		Tanzania	1		France	2	
				Thailand	1		Germany	1	
	Arizona			Tonga	1		Ghana	1	
	Belize	1		Tunisia	1		Guatemala	1	
	India	2		Turkey	2		Hungary	1	
	Indonesia	1		Uganda	1		India	2	
	Japan	1		Ukraine	1		Italy	1	
	Kuwait	1		United Kingdom	4		Jamaica	2	
	Mexico	7		West Bank	2		Japan	1	
	Peru	1					Jordan	2	
	Russia	1			Colorado		Kuwait	1	
	Thailand	1		Argentina	2		Lebanon	1	
	West Bank	1		Czech Republic	1		Mexico	5	
				Ethiopia	1		Morocco	1	
	Arkansas			Germany	2		Netherlands	1	
	China	1		India	3		New Zealand	1	
	Costa Rica	1		Malaysia	1		Nicaragua	1	
	United Kingdom	1		Mexico	7		Norway	1	
				Philippines	3		Palau	1	
				Slovakia	1		Peru	3	
	California						Philippines	3	
	Armenia	1			Connecticut		Poland	2	
	Australia	3		Costa Rica	1		Russia	2	
	Austria	1		Côte d'Ivoire	1		Serbia	1	
	Belgium	4		India	2		Spain	2	
	Brazil	1		Lebanon	1		Sweden	1	
	Canada	5		Pakistan	3		Switzerland	1	
	Colombia	1		Sweden	1		Syria	2	
	Costa Rica	3		United Kingdom	1		Trinidad and Tobago	3	
	Cyprus	1					Turkey	1	
	Egypt	3			Delaware		United Arab Emirates	1	
	El Salvador	1		Canada	1		United Kingdom	2	
	Finland	1		Mexico	1		Uzbekistan	1	
	France	1					West Bank	1	
	Georgia	1			District of Columbia				
	Germany	3		Colombia	2			Georgia	
	Guatemala	1		Russia	1		Australia	1	
	India	26		Venezuela	1		Bahamas, The	1	
	Indonesia	3					Côte d'Ivoire	1	
	Iran	2			Florida		Egypt	1	
	Iraq	2		Albania	1		France	1	
	Italy	3		Argentina	2		Germany	1	
	Japan	11		Australia	1		India	3	
	Jordan	1		Bahamas, The	2		Indonesia	1	
	Korea, Republic of	3		Bangladesh	1		Israel	1	
	Lebanon	2		Belgium	1		Kuwait	1	
	Mexico	65		Bolivia	1		Mexico	4	
	Morocco	1		Brazil	2		Montenegro	1	
	Nigeria	1		Canada	9		Pakistan	2	
	Pakistan	3							

Panama	1	Mexico	2	Dominican Republic	3
Romania	1			Ecuador	1
Senegal	1	 Kansas		Egypt	1
Spain	1	Gaza Strip	1	Japan	1
 Hawaii		Mexico	4	Netherlands	1
Germany	1	Pakistan	1	Pakistan	1
Greece	1	Philippines	1	Uganda	1
Japan	1	Russia	1	Ukraine	1
New Zealand	1	Turkey	1	Vietnam	1
Singapore	1	United Kingdom	1	Yemen	1
Thailand	1	 Kentucky		 Michigan	
 Idaho		China	1	Albania	1
Afghanistan	1	Colombia	1	Australia	1
Estonia	1	Mexico	1	Austria	1
France	1	Netherlands	1	Canada	1
Germany	1	Peru	1	China	1
Mexico	1	 Louisiana		Colombia	1
Turkey	1	Jordan	1	Germany	1
 Illinois		Mexico	2	India	3
Argentina	1	Peru	1	Iraq	1
Brazil	2	Taiwan	1	Japan	4
Canada	2	Thailand	1	Jordan	4
China	3	 Maine		Lebanon	2
Croatia	1	Peru	1	Mexico	6
Ecuador	1	Russia	1	Pakistan	1
Ghana	1	 Maryland		Taiwan	1
India	8	Canada	1	Yemen	3
Italy	1	Czech Republic	1	 Minnesota	
Jordan	2	Ecuador	1	Bolivia	1
Mexico	5	Egypt	2	Ghana	1
Nigeria	1	El Salvador	1	India	1
Pakistan	3	Guadeloupe	1	Japan	1
Peru	1	Guatemala	1	Mexico	2
Poland	2	India	4	Russia	1
Russia	3	Iran	2	Thailand	1
Turkey	2	Jamaica	1	 Mississippi	
Uganda	1	Kenya	1	Denmark	1
United Kingdom	1	Korea, Republic of	1	Korea, Republic of	1
Vietnam	1	Korea, Republic of	1	Mexico	1
West Bank	3	Libya	1	 Missouri	
 Indiana		Malaysia	1	Canada	1
Mexico	2	Mexico	2	India	1
North Macedonia	2	Namibia	1	Japan	1
Pakistan	1	Nigeria	1	Mexico	1
Philippines	1	Pakistan	2	West Bank	1
Switzerland	1	Poland	1	 Montana	
 Iowa		Sweden	1	Canada	1
Canada	2	Trinidad and Tobago	1	Jordan	1
Egypt	1	United Kingdom	1	Venezuela	1
Germany	1	 Massachusetts			
Jordan	1	Algeria	1		
		Denmark	1		

	Nebraska			New York					
	Guatemala	1		Algeria	1			Canada	1
	United Kingdom	1		Argentina	1			China	1
	Nevada			Bermuda	1			Egypt	2
	Anguilla	1		Brazil	2			Germany	2
	Costa Rica	1		Cambodia	1			Ghana	1
	France	1		Canada	3			Guatemala	1
	Japan	1		China	1			Hungary	1
	Mexico	9		Colombia	3			India	4
	Philippines	1		Costa Rica	1			Iraq	2
	Russia	1		Cyprus	1			Israel	1
	Spain	1		Czech Republic	1			Japan	1
	New Hampshire			Dominican Republic	4			Mexico	4
	India	1		Ecuador	2			Panama	1
	Turkey	1		Egypt	4			Syria	1
	United Kingdom	1		France	1			West Bank	1
	New Jersey			Germany	1		North Dakota		
	Australia	1		Guatemala	1		Armenia	1	
	Bahamas, The	1		Guyana	1		India	1	
	Bangladesh	1		Haiti	1		Mexico	1	
	Brazil	2		Honduras	1		Ohio		
	Canada	2		India	7		Canada	1	
	China	1		Iran	1		Egypt	1	
	Colombia	1		Ireland	1		France	1	
	Dominican Republic	4		Israel	1		Gambia, The	1	
	Egypt	3		Italy	2		Honduras	1	
	France	2		Jamaica	2		India	3	
	Hungary	1		Japan	3		Indonesia	1	
	India	7		Jordan	3		Japan	2	
	Japan	2		Malaysia	1		Jordan	1	
	Jordan	1		Mexico	6		Korea, Republic of	1	
	Lebanon	1		Netherlands	1		Mexico	4	
	Nigeria	1		Nigeria	1		Morocco	1	
	Pakistan	5		Pakistan	2		Netherlands	1	
	Paraguay	1		Peru	1		Oman	1	
	Peru	2		Qatar	1		Qatar	1	
	Poland	1		Romania	1		Russia	2	
	Russia	2		Russia	2		Senegal	1	
	Saudi Arabia	1		Senegal	1		South Africa	1	
	United Arab Emirates	1		Slovakia	1		United Kingdom	1	
	United Kingdom	1		Sudan	1		West Bank	1	
	Uzbekistan	1		Switzerland	1				
	New Mexico			Syria	1		Oklahoma		
	Cameroon	1		Trinidad and Tobago	5		Iran	1	
	Egypt	1		Tunisia	1		Lebanon	1	
	Iraq	1		Turkey	2		Mexico	1	
	Italy	1		Ukraine	2		South Africa	1	
	Mexico	2		United Arab Emirates	2				
	Pakistan	1		United Kingdom	4		Oregon		
	Poland	1		Uruguay	1		Australia	1	
	Taiwan	1		Yemen	1		Dominican Republic	1	
				Bangladesh	1		Germany	1	
				Brazil	2		Mexico	3	
							Switzerland	1	

	Pennsylvania								
	Australia	1	Bulgaria	1	Korea, Republic of	1			
	Canada	2	Cameroon	1	Mexico	1			
	Colombia	1	Canada	7	Nicaragua	1			
	Egypt	2	Colombia	2	Nigeria	1			
	India	4	Gaza Strip	1	Pakistan	3			
	Indonesia	2	Germany	1	Peru	2			
	Iraq	1	Ghana	1	Russia	1			
	Israel	1	Guyana	1	Trinidad and Tobago	1			
	Jamaica	1	Honduras	3	Turkey	3			
	Jordan	1	India	4	United Kingdom	4			
	Mexico	1	Iran	2	Uzbekistan	1			
	Philippines	1	Iraq	2					
	Russia	2	Israel	1		Washington			
	Saint Martin	1	Italy	2	Australia	1			
	Saudi Arabia	1	Jamaica	1	Belgium	1			
	Trinidad and Tobago	1	Jordan	2	Canada	3			
	United Arab Emirates	1	Kenya	2	China	1			
	United Kingdom	1	Korea, Republic of	1	Egypt	1			
			Lebanon	1	Fiji	1			
			Lithuania	1	Germany	1			
			Mexico	41	India	5			
	Puerto Rico		Morocco	2	Iraq	1			
	Argentina	1	Nigeria	1	Italy	2			
	Mexico	1	Pakistan	1	Jamaica	1			
	Peru	1	Peru	2	Japan	2			
			Russia	2	Korea, Republic of	1			
	Rhode Island		Spain	2	Mexico	1			
	China	1	Turkey	2	Pakistan	2			
	Dominican Republic	1	Ukraine	1	Peru	1			
			United Kingdom	4	Philippines	1			
			West Bank	1	Saudi Arabia	2			
					South Africa	1			
	South Carolina			Utah					
	Ecuador	1	Chile	1		West Virginia			
	India	2	China	1	Colombia	1			
	Jamaica	1	Guatemala	1					
	Mexico	2	India	2		Wisconsin			
	Saudi Arabia	2	Mexico	3	Canada	1			
			Turkey	2	Germany	1			
					India	1			
	South Dakota				Mexico	3			
	Japan	1		Vermont					
	Russia	1	Bahamas, The	1					
			Nicaragua	1		Wyoming			
					Canada	1			
	Tennessee			Virginia					
	Brazil	1	Bolivia	1					
	Canada	2	Canada	3					
	Guyana	1	China	1					
	Japan	1	Dominican Republic	2					
	Mexico	7	Egypt	1					
	Saudi Arabia	1	Germany	2					
	United Kingdom	1	India	7					
			Iraq	1					
	Texas		Japan	1					
	Australia	1	Kenya	1					
	Azerbaijan	1							
	Bahamas, The	1							
	Bolivia	3							
	Brazil	5							

UNRESOLVED ABDUCTION CASES

Argentina

#1 Pending 114 Months

Australia

#1 pending 13 months

Azerbaijan

#1 pending 33 months

Brazil

#1 pending 131 months
#2 pending 111 months
#3 pending 71 months
#4 pending 62 months
#5 pending 35 months
#6 pending 13 months
#7 pending 12 months

Bolivia

#1 pending 36 months

Cambodia

#1 pending 36 months

Canada

#1 pending 12 months

China

#1 pending 36 months
#2 pending 36 months

Colombia

#1 pending 17 months

Costa Rica

#1 pending 12 months
#2 pending 16 months

Czech Republic

#1 pending 16 months

Ecuador

#1 pending 13 months
#2 pending 12 months

Egypt

#1 pending 24 months
#2 pending 24 months
#3 pending 38 months
#4 pending 38 months
#5 pending 56 months
#6 pending 56 months
#7 pending 56 months
#8 pending 56 months
#9 pending 56 months
#10 pending 38 months

France

#1 pending 15 months

Greece

#1 pending 12 months

Guatemala

#1 pending 27 months

India

#1 pending 36 months
#2 pending 36 months
#3 pending 36 months
#4 pending 36 months
#5 pending 36 months
#6 pending 36 months
#7 pending 31 months
#8 pending 31 months
#9 pending 24 months
#10 pending 36 months
#11 pending 36 months
#12 pending 36 months
#13 pending 36 months
#14 pending 36 months
#15 pending 36 months
#16 pending 36 months
#17 pending 36 months
#18 pending 36 months
#19 pending 36 months
#20 pending 36 months
#21 pending 36 months
#22 pending 36 months
#23 pending 36 months
#24 pending 31 months
#25 pending 36 months
#26 pending 24 months
#27 pending 36 months
#28 pending 36 months
#29 pending 31 months
#30 pending 36 months
#31 pending 36 months
#32 pending 36 months
#33 pending 31 months
#34 pending 24 months
#35 pending 24 months
#36 pending 31 months

Indonesia

#1 pending 23 months
#2 pending 36 months
#3 pending 36 months
#4 pending 36 months
#5 pending 36 months
#6 pending 36 months
#7 pending 36 months

Japan

#1 pending 28 months

Jordan

#1 pending 35 months
#2 pending 35 months

Kenya

#1 pending 36 months

Korea, Republic of

#1 pending 12 months

Lebanon

#1 pending 24 months
#2 pending 24 months
#3 pending 24 months

Malaysia

#1 pending 36 months

Mexico

#1 pending 57 months
#2 pending 150 months
#3 pending 121 months
#4 pending 114 months
#5 pending 87 months
#6 pending 12 months
#7 pending 75 months
#8 pending 16 months
#9 pending 66 months
#10 pending 19 months
#11 pending 22 months
#12 pending 22 months
#13 pending 24 months
#14 pending 39 months
#15 pending 36 months
#16 pending 43 months
#17 pending 47 months
#18 pending 49 months
#19 pending 12 months
#20 pending 34 months

Namibia

#1 pending 37 months

Pakistan

#1 pending 31 months
#2 pending 31 months
#3 pending 31 months
#4 pending 31 months
#5 pending 31 months
#6 pending 31 months
#7 pending 31 months
#8 pending 31 months

Peru

#1 pending 27 months
#2 pending 16 months
#3 pending 26 months
#4 pending 46 months
#5 pending 20 months

Philippines

#1 pending 23 months
#2 pending 36 months
#3 pending 36 months
#4 pending 36 months
#5 pending 36 months
#6 pending 36 months
#7 pending 26 months
#8 pending 23 months

Poland

#1 pending 22 months

Russia

#1 pending 36 months
#2 pending 36 months
#3 pending 36 months
#4 pending 36 months
#5 pending 36 months
#6 pending 36 months

South Africa

#1 pending 43 months

Taiwan

#1 pending 36 months
#2 pending 36 months

Trinidad and Tobago

#1 pending 38 months

Uganda

#1 pending 36 months

United Arab Emirates

#1 pending 22 months
#2 pending 36 months
#3 pending 36 months

United Kingdom

#1 pending 18 months

Uruguay

#1 pending 65 months

UNRESOLVED ACCESS CASES

Brazil

#1 pending 55 months

#2 pending 26 months

Colombia

#1 pending 16 months

Poland

#1 pending 24 months

United Kingdom

#1 pending 13 months

#2 pending 12 months

ABDUCTION CASES NOT SENT TO THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN 2018

Brazil

- #1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
- #2 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Canada

- #1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #2 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #3 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #4 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #5 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #6 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #7 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #8 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #9 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #10 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #11 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #12 Administrative Processing by FCA
- #13 Administrative Processing by FCA
- #14 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

Colombia

- #1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Cyprus

- #1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case, FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

Ecuador

- #1 Administrative Processing by FCA

France

- #1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent, FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other
- #2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other
- #3 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent, FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other
- #4 Case in mediation, FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

Germany

- #1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

Italy

- #1 Other

Japan

- #1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other
- #2 Case in mediation
- #3 Case in mediation

Korea, Republic of

- #1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #2 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #3 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case
- #4 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

Mexico

- #1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
- #2 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other
- #3 Administrative Processing by FCA
- #4 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other
- #5 Administrative Processing by FCA, Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
- #6 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other
- #7 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
- #8 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Morocco

- #1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Peru

- #1 Administrative Processing by FCA
- #2 Administrative Processing by FCA
- #3 Administrative Processing by FCA

Serbia

- #1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

Slovakia

- #1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

South Africa

- #1 FCA Rejected Application

Spain

- #1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Sweden

- #1 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case, FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

Thailand

- #1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other
- #2 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent
- #3 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Trinidad and Tobago

- #1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other
- #2 Administrative Processing by FCA

Turkey

- #1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other
- #2 Administrative Processing by FCA
- #3 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

United Kingdom

- #1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other
- #2 Other
- #3 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other
- #4 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

ACCESS CASES NOT SENT TO THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN 2018

Brazil

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Canada

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

#2 Administrative Processing by FCA

#3 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

#4 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

#5 Administrative Processing by FCA

#6 Non-FCA Entity Submitting Case

Costa Rica

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Czech Republic

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

Ecuador

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

France

#1 Case in mediation

Germany

#1 FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

Ireland

#1 FCA Rejected Application

Japan

#1 Other

#2 Other

#3 Other

#4 Other

#5 Case in mediation

#6 Other

#7 Other

#8 Case in mediation

#9 Case in mediation

#10 Case in mediation

#11 Other

#12 Case in mediation

#13 Case in mediation

#14 Other

#15 Other

#16 Other

#17 Other

#18 Case in mediation, Other

#19 Other

#20 Other

#21 Case in mediation, Other, FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

#22 Case in mediation

Mexico

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

#2 FCA Rejected Application

Singapore

#1 Unable to locate the child and/or taking parent

Spain

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA

Trinidad and Tobago

#1 Administrative Processing by FCA, FCA was awaiting requested information from the left-behind parent, attorney, or other

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WITH ONE OR MORE ABDUCTION CASE IN 2018

Albania	No Protocol	Jordan	No Protocol
Algeria	No Protocol	Kenya	No Protocol
Anguilla	Convention	Korea, Republic of	Convention
Argentina	Convention	Kuwait	No Protocol
Armenia	Convention	Lebanon	No Protocol
Australia	Convention	Libya	No Protocol
Austria	Convention	Lithuania	Convention
Azerbaijan	No Protocol	Malaysia	No Protocol
The Bahamas	Convention	Mexico	Convention
Bangladesh	No Protocol	Montenegro	Convention
Belgium	Convention	Morocco	Convention
Bermuda	Convention	Namibia	No Protocol
Bolivia	No Protocol	Netherlands	Convention
Brazil	Convention	New Zealand	Convention
Bulgaria	Convention	Nicaragua	No Protocol
Cambodia	No Protocol	Nigeria	No Protocol
Cameroon	No Protocol	North Macedonia	Convention
Canada	Convention	Norway	Convention
Chile	Convention	Oman	No Protocol
China	No Protocol	Pakistan	No Protocol
Colombia	Convention	Panama	Convention
Costa Rica	Convention	Paraguay	Convention
Côte d'Ivoire	No Protocol	Peru	Convention
Croatia	Convention	Philippines	No Protocol
Cyprus	Convention	Poland	Convention
Czech Republic	Convention	Romania	Convention
Denmark	Convention	Russia	No Protocol
Dominican Republic	Convention	Saudi Arabia	No Protocol
Ecuador	Convention	Senegal	No Protocol
Egypt	No Protocol	Serbia	Convention
El Salvador	Convention	Slovakia	Convention
Estonia	Convention	South Africa	Convention
Ethiopia	No Protocol	Spain	Convention
Finland	Convention	Sweden	Convention
Fiji	Convention	Switzerland	Convention
France	Convention	Syria	No Protocol
The Gambia	No Protocol	Taiwan	No Protocol
Gaza Strip	No Protocol	Tanzania	No Protocol
Georgia	No Protocol	Thailand	Convention
Germany	Convention	Tonga	No Protocol
Ghana	No Protocol	Trinidad and Tobago	Convention
Greece	Convention	Tunisia	No Protocol
Guatemala	Convention	Turkey	Convention
Guyana	No Protocol	Uganda	No Protocol
Honduras	Convention	Ukraine	Convention
Hungary	Convention	United Arab Emirates	No Protocol
India	No Protocol	United Kingdom	Convention
Indonesia	No Protocol	Uruguay	Convention
Iran	No Protocol	Uzbekistan	No Protocol
Iraq	No Protocol	Venezuela	Convention
Israel	Convention	Vietnam	No Protocol
Italy	Convention	West Bank	No Protocol
Jamaica	No Protocol	Yemen	No Protocol
Japan	Convention		