

## **International Parental Child Abduction Service**

The IPCA Service is a free national service funded by the Federal Attorney General's Department.

### **Information, Advice and Referral**

The IPCA telephone advisory and support service is available to people directly affected by or concerned about the potential risk of IPCA and to professionals and agencies seeking assistance.

The Service is also able to provide general information to the public.

Staff of the Service offer non-judgmental and confidential support and advice. The Service works from the key premise of focusing on best outcomes for the child/children involved.

### **Community Education and Training**

The Service provides training and community education to agencies and community groups who wish to know more about IPCA. Specific training can also be provided.

### **Advocacy and Research**

ISS Australia uses statistical data from our casework to input into research regarding the needs and concerns of families experiencing IPCA.

## **What is International Parental Child Abduction?**

International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA) is a term used to describe the situation of a parent taking a child to another country without the other parent's consent.

It also applies to a parent who has taken a child on a holiday to another country, with the other parent's consent, but then refuses to return the child.

Cases of IPCA occur regularly across Australia and the rest of the world. In Australia, official records estimate 2-3 children are taken illegally by a parent out of and into Australia each week.

## **The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction**

This Convention is an international treaty which aims to assist with the prompt return of children who have been wrongfully removed from, or retained outside their country of habitual residence.

The Convention only applies between countries that are parties to the Convention. These are known as Convention Countries and currently approximately eighty countries have signed the Convention.

## **If your child has been taken to another country without your consent**

In the case of an abduction to a Hague Convention country, there is a specific process to be undertaken through the Attorney General's Department to seek the return of the child.

If your child has been taken to a country which is not a party to the Convention, there may be different approaches required for seeking the return. The ISS network can assist in advising on the approach which has the highest likelihood of success in a particular country.

## **If you are considering taking your child to another country without consent**

The IPCA Service offers non-judgmental assistance and is also open to inquiries from abducting parents or those who may be contemplating abduction.

One of the reasons a parent might want to leave Australia with their child is domestic violence. If you find yourself in this situation, there is significant support for you and the children to remain safe, or to assist you to leave the relationship and remain in the country.

**For more information, contact the IPCA Service on toll free 1300 657 843.**

## Useful contacts

*If you think your child has been taken to a Hague Convention country, contact:*

**Commonwealth Central Authority  
International Family Law Unit  
Federal Attorney General's Department**

Ph: 1800 100 480

[www.ag.gov.au/www/childabduction.nsf](http://www.ag.gov.au/www/childabduction.nsf)

*If you think your child has been taken to a non-Hague Convention country, contact:*

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Ph: 1300 555 135

[www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)

*If your child is missing within Australia, contact:*

**Australian Federal Police  
Missing Person's Unit**

Ph: 1800 000 634

[www.afp.gov.au](http://www.afp.gov.au)

## ISS Australia contact details

### **National Office**

Level 2, 313-315 Flinders Lane,  
Melbourne, Vic, 3000  
Australia

Ph: +61 3 9614 8755

Toll free: 1300 657 843

Fax: +61 3 9614 8766

### **NSW Office**

Level 1, 518 Kent St  
Sydney, NSW, 2000  
Australia

Ph: +61 2 9267 0300

Fax: +61 2 9267 3886

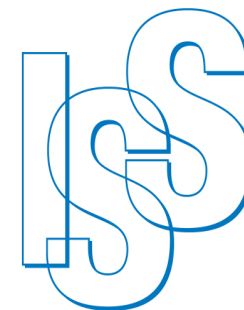
Email: [iss@iss.org.au](mailto:iss@iss.org.au)

Website: [www.iss.org.au](http://www.iss.org.au)

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International  
Social Service

**Australian Branch**

**International Parental  
Child Abduction  
Service**

**Toll free number 1300 657 843**