



# **FAMILY SAFETY AND CHILD ABDUCTION PLANNING AND PREVENTION RESOURCE KIT**

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE**



International  
Social Service  
Australian Branch

The Family Safety and Child Abduction  
Planning and Prevention Resource Kit  
has been funded by the Australian  
Government's Domestic and Family  
Violence and Sexual Assault Initiative  
through the Office for Women.

# FAMILY SAFETY AND CHILD ABDUCTION IDENTIFIER

ABUSE DESCRIPTORS	CROSS-CULTURAL DESCRIPTORS	TYPES OF ABUSE
Slapping, punching, kicking, biting, pushing or shoving you, or pulling your hair.	Using cultural or religious beliefs to justify physical abuse.	PHYSICAL ABUSE
Threatening to hurt you in any way if you don't do what they want. Threatening to commit suicide if you leave or threatening to report you to welfare if you call the police.	Threatening to have you or your family deported if you seek help. Threatening to sabotage a visa application if you tell anyone about the abuse. Giving you false information and denying you the right to independent immigration advice.	THREATS AND COERCION
Saying that the abuse is your fault. Trivialising the abuse and acting like it is no big deal or that it didn't happen.	Blaming you for not settling into the Australian community, or alternatively blaming you if you have. Denying or trivialising your cultural identity.	DENIAL AND BLAME
Controlling whom you see, whom you talk to and where you go. Limiting your contact with the outside world.	Not letting you learn English. Not letting you see people from your own community or those who speak your language.	ISOLATION
Treating you like a servant. Defining rigid male and female roles.	Using cultural or religious beliefs to treat you like a servant.	ABUSING PRIVILEGE
Forcing you to have sex or engage in sexual acts you are not comfortable with. Any kind of unwanted sexual contact. Making false allegations of prostitution in order to sabotage legal claims, e.g., custody arrangements or immigration.	Using cultural or religious beliefs to justify sexual abuse. Calling you a 'mail order bride'.	SEXUAL ABUSE
Making you afraid with gestures or looks. Scaring you with actions such as driving dangerously or showing you weapons.	Throwing, smashing or destroying objects to scare you. Throwing or smashing important objects from your country of origin. Destroying your passport or other important documents.	INTIMIDATION
Telling you that you're crazy, useless or stupid. Calling you names and making you feel bad about yourself. Acting jealous in order to make you feel guilty.	Telling family, friends or community leaders lies about you. Calling you racist names or disrespecting your culture or religion.	EMOTIONAL ABUSE
Abusing children. Manipulating visitation time to abuse you. Relaying messages through children. Threatening to make a false report of child abuse to a welfare agency.	Not letting you teach your child about your culture. Tricking you to agree to unfair custody arrangements. Withholding important legal information about custody rights. Threatening to abduct children overseas or send them overseas without you.	USING CHILDREN
Controlling your money and all the household money. Taking your money from you or forcing you to beg for money. Not letting you get a job.	Withholding information about your rightful Centrelink entitlements. Threatening to make reports to Centrelink that will result in a penalty or withdrawal of a benefit. Sending your money to people overseas without your permission.	ECONOMIC ABUSE

# 1. ABOUT THE RESOURCE KIT

This Resource Kit has been written for parents who may be considering leaving Australia with their child in order to escape domestic violence. It has also been written for community workers and volunteers who may be working with such parents.

The Resource Kit consists of the **Abuse and Abduction Identifier Card** and six **Information Sheets**.

## THE ABUSE AND ABDUCTION IDENTIFIER CARD

- The Identifier Card is located at the front of the Resource Kit.
- It is a visual educational tool that categorises various types of abuse.
- On the card there are two columns of information; the first column gives examples for each category of abuse; the second column gives corresponding examples of abuses within a cross-cultural context, and highlights abduction risks.
- The Identifier Card is directed toward women experiencing family violence, and for those workers supporting such women.
- Women and their community workers may use the Identifier Card to recognise, identify and label the abusive situations that are being experienced.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- This Information Sheet outlines the contents of the Resource Kit and how to best use the tools and information.
- It is written for parents and community workers.

## 2. THE FIRST QUESTIONS: WHAT, WHY AND WHO?

- **What?** This section includes definitions of international parental child abductions and domestic violence, to help parents and workers identify and label both situations.
- **Why?** This section outlines a range of conceptual, emotional and situational factors commonly associated with child abduction. It is particularly written for community workers, to help them recognise the beliefs and emotions of clients at most risk of abducting their child.
- **Who?** This section outlines the common situational characteristics of those parents mostly likely to abduct their child. It is particularly written for community workers, to help them more easily recognise and identify high-risk clients, and work towards preventing abduction through providing additional support.

## 3. WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION?

- This detailed Information Sheet introduces the Hague Convention on International Parental Child Abduction and how it works, summarises the position of Australian law, and what the two mean for mothers considering abduction.
- It is written for parents and community workers.

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# 1. ABOUT THE RESOURCE KIT (CONTINUED)

## 4. PLANNING FOR SAFETY

- This offers an example of a Safety Plan, with sections on: what to do in an emergency, what to take if you are leaving and planning ahead for safety.
- It is written for mothers experiencing domestic violence and may be used by community workers as an educational and planning tool.

## 5. PREVENTING ABDUCTION

- This Information Sheet identifies the situations when a child is most at risk of being abducted by a parent.
- It outlines both the steps to take and the people to contact to prevent a child abduction from taking place.
- It also outlines the steps to take and people to contact in response to a child abduction that may have occurred.
- It is written for parents and community workers.

## 6. KEY RESOURCES

- This Information Sheet contains the contact information for key national and state/territory government agencies and non-government organizations.
- It is written for parents and community workers.

## 2. THE FIRST QUESTIONS: WHAT, WHY AND WHO?

### WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION?

- **International parental child abduction** occurs when a child (or children) is wrongfully removed from or retained outside their country of habitual residence by one parent.
- **Wrongful removal** means a parent has taken the child or children outside the country without the permission of the other parent or in breach of custody arrangements.
- **Wrongful retention** means a parent has taken a child or children out of the country with the other parent's permission but has then decided to keep them there without the consent of the other parent.

International parental child abduction is not a criminal offence in Australia and is therefore not the same as kidnapping. However, the law is on the side of the left-behind parent if they do try to have the child or children returned.

### FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence is also sometimes referred to as **domestic violence** or **relationship violence**. All of these describe a situation where someone uses power and control to dominate another person with whom they are intimate or were in the past. This violence can take many forms; some examples are:

- **psychological or emotional:** intimidating, threatening or making a person live in fear;
- **verbal:** yelling, name-calling and verbally abusing;
- **physical:** punching, slapping, biting, kicking or threatening to do so;
- **sexual:** any sexual contact against a person's will;
- **financial:** controlling access to money; preventing a person from working;
- **social:** controlling who a person can see or talk to and when, or preventing a person from learning English; and
- **using immigration:** threatening to sabotage a person's immigration status, or hiding or destroying important documents.

(Adapted from: [www.ncsmc.org.au](http://www.ncsmc.org.au) & [www.unifem.org](http://www.unifem.org))

Family violence is present in all areas of society, transcending class and race. Family violence is a fundamental abuse of the human rights and dignity of an individual.

### VIOLENCE AND ABDUCTION

Research and experience from International Social Service has demonstrated that international parental child abduction can sometimes occur because of family violence. International parental child abduction might be seen as a way for a woman to escape violence, protect her child and to be safe and closer to her family supports. For many women, this is an option that eventuates out of desperation, despair and fear.

Everyone has a right to safety, and there are a number of support services available in the Australian community to assist women of all cultures and backgrounds who wish to escape family violence. Women can access these specialised community supports in order to pursue a legitimate avenue towards finding a safer place to live. This can be a safer and more stable alternative to abduction. There is a list of some of these support services in the back of this kit.

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## 2. THE FIRST QUESTIONS: WHAT, WHY AND WHO? (CONTINUED)

### WHY DO PARENTS ABDUCT?

The increasing number of inter-country relationships, the speed and convenience of international travel and the overall increase in family breakdown contribute to international parental child abduction. Child abduction usually eventuates because of a range of factors. These most commonly include:

- fear of and inability to communicate with the other parent;
- extensive hostility between the former or estranged parents;
- family violence and/or child abuse – a parent fears for their own and/or their child's safety;
- a deep sense of unfairness felt by one parent in relation to Family Court residence and contact arrangements;
- differences in relation to the parent's approach to child rearing or discipline;
- cultural or religious differences which become intolerable for one parent;
- a parent's belief that the child is their property, without a will or rights of their own;
- a wish to control the cultural upbringing of the child; and
- fear of loss of the relationship with the child.

### WHO IS MORE LIKELY TO ABDUCT?

Below is a list of characteristics that may be common in parents considering abduction. If legal, protection and emotional supports have not been available or appropriate to a parent in these situations, then abduction is more likely to be seen as a viable option.

Common characteristics are:

- one or both parents were born overseas, or have family or friends overseas;
- one or both parents have extensive family supports overseas;
- one parent has recently migrated and is having settlement difficulties whilst the other is well settled;
- the family has recently migrated to Australia and both parents are having difficulties with resettlement;
- the parents come from two different cultural backgrounds;
- a parent has previously threatened to abduct the child or children; and
- a parent has previously abducted the child or children.

### 3. WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION?

Family violence can drive a mother to abduct her child overseas. Whilst this may seem to be the most direct way to gain protection, safety and family support, neither international law nor Australian family law support this option.

#### THE HAGUE INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION CONVENTION

Australia is a signatory to an international treaty called the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The purpose of the Convention is to ensure that children who are wrongfully removed from their country, or wrongfully retained in another country, are returned to where they have normally lived, that is, to their country of habitual residence. The Convention only applies to children under the age of 16.

#### HOW IT WORKS

If a child has been removed to, or retained in, another country that is also a signatory to the Convention, then the left-behind parent can use this treaty to have the abducted child returned to Australia. The left-behind parent needs to complete a special application. Every country that is a signatory to the Hague Convention has a Central Authority that is established to process these applications.

In Australia the Attorney-General's Department is the federal Central Authority and is responsible for liaising with the Central Authority in other countries to co-ordinate cases internationally. There are also Central Authorities in every state and territory, whom left-behind parents should contact for assistance with their applications.

There is a very high probability that the left-behind parent will succeed in having the child returned to Australia. The Australian Family Court will then make decisions about where and with which parent the child should live. The Hague Convention clearly discourages international child abduction as a means of resolving family conflict.

Even in cases where there is evidence of family violence or child abuse, the child is still likely to be returned to their country of habitual residence. This is certainly the case in Australia, where the government can assert that adequate safety can be provided to the child through child protection services and foster care. The government can also ensure that adequate protection can be provided to the mother through family violence support services and women's refuges, whilst custody and access issues are being resolved.

#### AUSTRALIAN LAW

In all cases of international parental child abduction, the Australian Family Court will consider what is in the best interests of the child when deciding the country of residency for the child. Australian family law supports a person's right to safety and protection from family violence. It also says a child has the right to know both parents except where that relationship would be harmful to the child. In cases of abduction because of family violence or child abuse, the court may well decide that the abducting parent be allowed to move with the child to another country, where they can live permanently.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR A MOTHER CONSIDERING CHILD ABDUCTION?

For a mother and child who need to escape from family violence, both Australian and international law better supports finding safety within Australia, rather than fleeing overseas. If a mother takes her child to another country that has signed the Hague Abduction Convention, both she and the child are likely to be returned to Australia, where a court decision about where the child should live will be made. Given this likelihood, getting support in Australia may be a safer and more stable alternative to international abduction for both the child and parent. Seeking immediate protection in a refuge or re-locating within Australia allows a mother time to explore legitimate options for gaining the right to permanently move overseas with her child. Using the Australian family law system to gain custody of the child may be more direct than resorting to abduction, return of the child and then an Australian court case.

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### 3. WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION? (CONTINUED)

#### **ABDUCTION TO A NON-SIGNATORY COUNTRY**

Where a parent is considering abducting their child to a country that is not a signatory to the Hague Convention, having the child returned here becomes far more difficult. In these instances, the parent needs to carefully consider whether there are sufficient family and social supports and protections in the other country. Mothers abducting their child to escape family violence particularly need to consider if the father is in a position to follow them there. It may be very difficult for the Australian government to intervene, to offer any protection or assistance to citizens in such cases, as they are often considered to be private or family matters.

A list of signatory countries can be found on the Attorney General's Abduction Website listed in the back of this kit.

#### **A SUMMARY OF THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION**

The Convention:

- supports the return of the child to the country of habitual residence;
- only functions between signatory countries;
- only applies to children who are under 16 years old; and
- should be applied within 12 months of the abduction, otherwise residency in the other country may be established.

Return can be opposed where:

- the child would be exposed to grave physical or psychological harm; and
- the child objects.

## 4. PLANNING FOR SAFETY

If you or your child are experiencing family violence, it's a good idea to have a safety plan in case there is an emergency and to talk this through with a trusted person. A safety plan could look like this:

### IN AN EMERGENCY

- Move to a room with easy access to an exit. Don't go to the kitchen, bathroom or anywhere there may be weapons.
- Know the quickest route out of your home and workplace. Practise escaping that way.
- Pack a bag and have it ready (see below). Keep it hidden but make it easy to grab quickly.
- Keep emergency numbers on speed dial on home and mobile phones.
- Tell your neighbours to call the police if they hear a disturbance.
- Have a code word to use with your children, family and friends. If they hear this, they will know to call the police and get you help.
- Know where you are going to go if you have to escape, and know how to get there.
- Think of any friends, family or women's shelters that you could go to if you leave.

### WHAT TO TAKE WITH YOU IF YOU LEAVE

- Identification – birth certificates for you and your children, driver's licence, Centrelink information, passport, Medicare cards etc. Make copies of these items and give them to a friend, family member or support worker to mind for you. If possible, scan copies onto a computer and keep them on email.
- Money, ATM card, credit cards.
- Keys – for your home, your work, your car.
- Medication.
- Legal documents such as divorce papers, court orders, insurance papers.
- Lease or rental agreement, house deed, mortgage payment book.
- Jewellery or small items of value.
- Address book.
- Clothes.

### PLANNING AHEAD TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE

Things to talk to your children about during a calm and safe moment:

- let your children know what to do in an emergency (where to go and who to telephone; give them the phone numbers for the police, neighbours and relatives);
- talk to your children about violence and reinforce with them that it is wrong to use violence against anybody;
- reassure them that they aren't responsible in any way for causing the violence;
- tell your children not to intervene during a violent episode. Their responsibility is to keep themselves safe, not to protect you; and
- come up with a code word you can use to warn your children if they need to leave the house in a hurry.

(Adapted from: [www.freofocus.com.au/dvc/safety](http://www.freofocus.com.au/dvc/safety)  
[www.geocities.com/Wellesley/3059/dv2.html](http://www.geocities.com/Wellesley/3059/dv2.html))

**YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM HARM.**



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## 5. PREVENTING ABDUCTION

### WHEN YOUR CHILD MAY BE AT RISK OF BEING ABDUCTED

A parent may abduct their child in order to blame or punish the other parent. Abduction can also be a result of ongoing post-separation conflict and anger towards losing custody of a child or jealousy about the remarriage of the other parent. Sometimes, a parent may abduct their child as a way to force reconciliation or interaction with the other parent. Some other warning signs that abduction may occur could be that a parent is undertaking planning activities that indicate departure, such as resigning from a job, closing bank accounts, terminating a rental lease or speaking about planning a holiday with the kids.

### STEPS TO TAKE TO PREVENT YOUR CHILD FROM BEING ABDUCTED

#### *Securing passports*

If you fear your partner or ex-partner may abduct your child overseas, here are some things you should know:

- no one can take your child out of Australia without a passport;
- if your child has a passport, take it and keep it somewhere secure;
- if your child doesn't have an Australian passport, the other parent will not be able to arrange for one to be issued without your consent;
- it is still important to contact the **Australian Passport Office, 13 12 32**, to put your child's name on their alert list;
- if your child has **dual citizenship**, the other parent may be able to obtain a foreign passport without your consent, or use existing passports; and
- call **International Social Service, 1300 657 843**, where a specialist **Child Abduction Caseworker** can give you further advice about what steps to take and whom to contact.

#### *Obtaining court orders*

If you think the other parent is in possession of the passports and there is an immediate risk of abduction, you should do the following:

- call the **Family Court Emergency Line, 1800 622 395** or the **Family Law Hotline, 1800 050 321**;
- explain the situation and tell them you want to issue a court order prohibiting the removal of your children from Australia;
- once the order is issued, the **Australian Federal Police** can place the children's name on the **Airport Watch List**; and
- call **International Social Service, 1300 657 843**, where a specialist **Child Abduction Caseworker** can give you further advice about what steps to take and whom to contact.

### STEPS TO TAKE IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN ABDUCTED

#### *If you do not know where your child is:*

- Call the **Australian Federal Police Missing Person's Unit, 1800 000 634**; this service can help find your child within Australia.

#### *If you are unsure if your children are in Australia or overseas:*

- the **Australian Federal Police Missing Person's Unit, 1800 000 634**, can direct you to get information about the departure details of your child;
- follow the steps for obtaining court orders; and
- call **International Social Service, 1300 657 843**, and ask for the **Child Abduction Caseworker**.

#### *If you fear your child has already been abducted overseas:*

- follow the steps for Obtaining Court Orders;
- call **International Social Service, 1300 657 843**, and ask for the **Child Abduction caseworker**;

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## 5. PREVENTING ABDUCTION (CONTINUED)

- if your children have been taken overseas, International Social Service can tell you whether or not the **Hague Abduction Convention** will apply to the other country;
- if the Hague Abduction Convention does apply, International Social Service can assist you to contact the relevant **state/territorial Central Authority** to make an **application for return**;
- if the Hague Abduction Convention does **not** apply, International Social Service can assist you to contact the **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade** to explore other options; and
- International Social Service **may** also be able to assist in **mediated contact** between you and your child, or at least between you and the other parent, in the other country.

## 6. KEY RESOURCES

### NATIONAL RESOURCES

#### Australian Federal Police

*any emergency or security issues*

In an emergency call: 000

If translation services are needed in an emergency call: 1300 655 010

For police attendance call: 131 444

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

#### Australian Passport Information Service

*information about passports*

Free call: 131 232

Website: [www.passports.gov.au](http://www.passports.gov.au)

#### Commonwealth Central Authority

*abduction enquiries*

International Family Law Unit,  
Attorney-General's Department, Canberra

Free call: 1800 100 480

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

#### Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

*non-Hague abduction enquiries*

Free call: 1300 555 135

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

#### Department of Immigration and Citizenship

*immigration enquiries*

General enquires call: 131 881

Website: [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

#### Family Court of Australia

*information about the family law system or processes*

Website: [www.familycourt.gov.au](http://www.familycourt.gov.au)

#### Family Law Hotline

*free family law referrals and advice*

Free call: 1800 050 321

#### International Social Service

*support and referrals for international abduction*

Free call: 1300 657 843

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

#### Lifeline

*free counselling support and referral service*

Free call: 131 114

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

#### Mensline

*support and referrals for men*

Free call: 1300 789 978

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

#### Violence Against Women, Australia Says NO

*free counselling support & referral service*

Free call: 1800 200 526

Website: [www.australiasaysno.gov.au](http://www.australiasaysno.gov.au)

### STATE AND TERRITORIAL RESOURCES

#### Australian Capital Territory

##### ACT Central Authority

*abduction enquiries*

Department of Disability, Housing and  
Community Services, Office for Child,  
Youth and Family Support

Phone: (02) 6205 8025

Facsimile: (02) 6207 1501

##### Domestic Violence Crisis Service (ACT)

Phone: (02) 6280 0900

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

##### Legal Aid (ACT)

Free call: 1300 654 314

Website: [www.legalaid.canberra.net.au](http://www.legalaid.canberra.net.au)

##### Women's Legal Centre (ACT)

Free call: 1800 634 669

Website: [www.womenslegalact.org](http://www.womenslegalact.org)

#### New South Wales

##### Domestic Violence Line (NSW)

Free call: 1800 656 463

Website: [www.community.nsw.gov.au](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au)

##### Immigrant Women's Speakout Association

Phone: (02) 9635 8022

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

##### NSW Central Authority

*abduction enquiries*

Department of Community Services

Phone: (02) 9716 2307

Facsimile: (02) 9716 2988

##### New South Wales Legal Aid

Free call: 1300 888 529

Website: [www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au)

##### Women's Legal Resource Centre (NSW)

Phone: (02) 9749 5533

Website: [www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au](http://www.womenslegalnsw.asn.au)

#### Northern Territory

##### Domestic Violence Counselling Service (NT)

Phone – Darwin: (08) 8945 6200

Phone – Alice Springs: (08) 8952 6048

##### Domestic Violence Legal Help (Darwin)

Phone: (08) 8999 3000

##### NT Central Authority

*abduction enquiries*

Family and Children's Services

Phone: (08) 8999 4789

##### Northern Territory Legal Aid

Free call: 1800 019 343

Website: [www.ntlac.nt.gov.au](http://www.ntlac.nt.gov.au)

##### Top End Women's Legal Service

Free call: 1800 041 998

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## 6. KEY RESOURCES (CONTINUED)

### **Queensland**

#### **Brisbane Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (BDVAS)**

Phone: (07) 3217 2544

Website: [www.dvrc.org.au/advocacy-service](http://www.dvrc.org.au/advocacy-service)

#### **Domestic Violence Telephone Service: DV Connect**

Free call: 1800 811 811

Website: [www.dvconnect.org](http://www.dvconnect.org)

#### **Legal Aid (QLD)**

Free call: 1300 651 188

Website: [www.legalaid.qld.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.qld.gov.au)

#### **QLD Central Authority**

*abduction enquiries*

Department of Child Safety

Phone: (07) 3235 9859

Facsimile: (07) 3235 9851

#### **Women's Legal Service (QLD)**

Free call: 1800 677 278

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

### **South Australia**

#### **Domestic Violence Crisis Service**

Free call: 1300 782 200

#### **Domestic Violence Helpline**

Free call: 1800 800 098

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

#### **Legal Aid (SA)**

Free call: 1300 366 424

Website: [www.lsc.sa.gov.au](http://www.lsc.sa.gov.au)

### **SA Central Authority**

*abduction enquiries*

Major Crime Investigation Branch

Phone: (08) 8463 7870

Facsimile: (08) 8231 3905

#### **Women's Legal Service of South Australia**

Phone: (08) 8221 5553

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

### **Tasmania**

#### **Domestic Violence Crisis Service (TAS)**

Free call: 1800 633 937

#### **Legal Aid Tasmania**

Phone: (03) 6236 3800

Website: [www.legalaid.tas.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.tas.gov.au)

#### **SHE (Support Help and Empowerment)**

Phone: (03) 6278 9090

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

#### **TAS Central Authority**

*abduction enquiries*

Office of the Solicitor-General

Phone: (03) 6233 3408

Facsimile: (03) 6233 2510

#### **Women's Legal Service (TAS)**

Free call: 1800 682 468

### **Victoria**

#### **Domestic Violence Incest Resource Centre**

Phone: (03) 9486 9866

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

#### **Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service of Victoria**

Crisis line: (03) 9373 0123

Free call: 1800 015 188

### **VIC Central Authority**

*abduction enquiries*

Department of Human Services

Phone: (03) 9096 7319

#### **Victoria Legal Aid**

Phone: (03) 9269 0234

Website: [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au)

#### **Women's Information and Referral (WIRE)**

Free call: 1300 134 130

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

#### **Women's Legal Service Victoria**

Phone: (03) 9642 0877

### **Western Australia**

#### **Legal Aid Western Australia**

Free call: 1300 650 579

Website: [www.legalaid.wa.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au)

#### **Multicultural Women's Advocacy Service (WA)**

Phone: (08) 9344 8988

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

#### **WA Central Authority**

*abduction enquiries*

Crown Solicitor's Office

Phone: (08) 9264 1888

#### **Women's Council for Family and Family Violence Services (WA)**

Phone: (08) 9420 7264

#### **Women's Law Centre (WA) Inc**

Free call: 1800 625 122



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## **INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE AUSTRALIAN BRANCH**

### **NATIONAL OFFICE**

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