



Other Useful Contacts

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

**Commonwealth Central Authority
International Family Law Unit
Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department
Ph: 1800 100 480 • www.ag.gov.au**

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**

Or Contact ISS Australia on:

National Office

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

T: 03 9614 8755

F: 03 9614 8766

E: iss@iss.org.au

NSW Office

Level 1, 518 Kent Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia

T: 02 9267 0300

F: 02 9267 3886

E: issnsw@iss.org.au

Australia-wide, phone (local call cost):

1300 657 843

www.iss.org.au

Defending children • connecting families • across the world



**International
Social Service**
AUSTRALIA

International Parental Child Abduction

International Social Service (ISS) Australia is a national charity with over 50 years' experience defending children's rights and connecting families across the world.

What is International Parental Child Abduction?

International Parental Child Abduction (IPCA) occurs when a parent takes a child to another country without the other parent's consent, or refuses to return a child from overseas after an agreed period. Cases of IPCA are not uncommon. In Australia, an estimated **3-4 children each week** are abducted by a parent into or out of the country.

ISS Australia offers help to parents and families affected by IPCA, with a focus on the best interests of the child and the utmost respect for the privacy and confidentiality of those we work with.

ISS Australia's IPCA Service is a free national service funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and in New South Wales by the State Government.



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Our Social Workers offer a comprehensive service including:

- Information, advice, support and referral for families and professionals involved in IPCA cases
- Emotional support and counselling
- Practical support and information on who to contact for further advice and assistance
- A mediation-based approach to improve communication between parents and facilitate relationships between parents and children
- Referrals to assist with specific issues requiring long-term support
- Coordination and collaboration with other professional services according to a family's needs
- Support and assistance to access legal advice on IPCA matters
- Community education and training to agencies and community groups about IPCA
- Advocacy and research regarding the concerns of families experiencing IPCA

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Protection under International Law: the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

The Hague 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 signatory countries (including Australia).

If a 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 has not signed the Convention, a different process will be required to apply for return.

ISS Australia can advise on the best approach in a particular country.

Domestic Violence

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 available for you and your children to remain safe and help you leave the relationship and remain in the country.

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