

## About ISS Australia

International Social Service (ISS) Australia is an independent, national not-for-profit organisation with over 50 years' experience **defending children and connecting families across the world.**

ISS Australia works with those who are separated by international borders, with an emphasis on the rights and best interests of the child. ISS Australia is part of the international ISS network spanning over 140 countries, based in Geneva, with advisory status at the United Nations.

ISS Australia is a leader in its field. Its intercountry services include:

- International Parental Child Abduction Social Work support
- International Parental Child Abduction Legal assistance
- International Family and Post Adoption Tracing and Reunification
- Intercountry Child Welfare and Kinship Placement
- International Family Mediation
- Professional services including training and capacity building, research and advocacy

Please see our other brochures on these services.

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**Defending** children • **connecting** families • across the **world**



**International  
Social Service**  
AUSTRALIA

## International Parental Child Abduction

International Social Service (ISS) Australia is an independent, national not-for-profit organisation 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.



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## How can ISS Australia assist?

ISS Australia offers a variety of professional services to parents and families affected by IPCA.

These include:

- Social Work support
- Legal assistance
- International Family Mediation

All services are provided **Australia-wide**. The Social Work support and Legal assistance services are **free** (funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department).

### 1. IPCA Social Work Support Service

ISS Australia recognises that the impact of IPCA can be traumatic for all those involved.

Our qualified social workers can assist with:

- Information, advice, support and referral for families and professionals
- Emotional support and short-term counselling
- Practical support and information on who to contact for further advice and assistance
- Targeted referrals to assist with specific issues requiring long-term support
- Coordination with other professional services according to clients' needs
- Community education and training to agencies and community groups about IPCA
- Advocacy and research regarding the concerns of families experiencing IPCA
- Information for parents concerned about the risk of IPCA or considering international relocation
- Assistance for parents experiencing family violence situations where there is a risk of IPCA

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**Australia-wide, phone (local call cost):**

**1300 657 843**

## 2. IPCA Legal Assistance Service

Our qualified lawyers can assist with:

- Preparing applications and supporting documents to secure the return of children abducted to a *Hague Convention* country
- Preparing applications and supporting documents to obtain access to children living in a *Hague Convention* country
- Information about securing contact with children overseas
- Advice to reduce the risk of abduction

## 3. International Family Mediation Service

Our qualified mediators can assist with:

- Dispute resolution of international family matters, including IPCA
- Mediation provided face-to-face, via telephone or online
- Section 60I certificates for the Family Court of Australia, where appropriate

