

Success  
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Free  
Information  
Guide

Services

Children Law  
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Mental Health &  
Mental Capacity Law  
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Contact Us

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# Children's Law



Having your child abducted, or being accused yourself of child abduction can suddenly turn your world upside down. This free information guide gives practical guidance on child abduction matters.

## Child abductions - What you should know and do

1. Notify the local police if you believe that your child is missing, believed abducted. Contact a solicitor at once – don't delay even a day.
2. Make sure that your solicitor, who will be acting for you, has experience of child abduction matters. When making a first appointment you should be clear that you need help urgently. Mention the word 'Abduction' as this should trigger an immediate response.
3. Where relevant take with you to your first interview recent photographs of your child and any accompanying adults, and be ready to provide a detailed description of any particular physical characteristics of these persons – height, build, hair and eye colour etc.
4. Be ready to supply dates of birth, passport numbers and issue details for each person concerned if you have them.
5. Every Abduction case requires speedy and determined action. An important factor is the country to which the child has been taken, as it is relatively easier to recover children from those countries which are parties to an international agreement called the Hague Convention on Child Abduction.
6. Finding the address to which the child has been taken is obviously very important. If you do not have certain knowledge where the child is then think about and be ready to supply details of the country, area, city town or village and any addresses which might be relevant, and provide telephone numbers if known.
7. Does the person who has removed the child have relatives or friends who live in the country or area to which you believe the child has been taken? If so, be ready to provide as much information as you can about them and their whereabouts.
8. Who else may have information about the child's whereabouts? Are there relatives or friends, employers or employees of the person who has removed your child or of any person who may be accompanying them, whose contact details in this country are available to you?

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9. If you have brought your child here and do not know what to do next make an appointment with a solicitor without delay so that you can be advised of the law. Bring with you any documentation that you have in relation to your child and any written correspondence or details of other communication that you may have had with your child's other parent/carer.

## I believe my child has been abducted. What should I do now?

Do not say or do anything upon which the person who has removed/retained the child may try to rely to show that you agreed to the child's removal, either before or after the event.

Do not accept that the child should remain abroad beyond any period that may have been agreed for a holiday or other visit to another country.

If you believe your child has been abducted, Fisher Meredith's Children's Law Department can offer immediate advice on how best to manage the situation.

## Useful links

ICACU (International Child Abduction and Contact Unit)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/protecting-the-vulnerable/official-solicitor/international-child-abduction-and-contact-unit>

To contact ICACU telephone +(44) 020 7911 7045/7047

Reunite is a leading UK charity specialising in international parental child abduction.

<http://www.reunite.org>

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