



INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ATTORNEY NETWORK International Parental Child Abduction

Each year, hundreds of children are abducted by a parent or family member across international borders to and from the United States. Parental child abduction not only jeopardizes the child's well being, it has substantial long-term consequences for the left-behind parent, the family, and society. When a child is abducted internationally, the difficulties are compounded for everyone involved.

The Department of State places the highest priority on the welfare of children, and is deeply committed to assisting children and parents involved in these cases. As part of our efforts, the Office of Children's Issues maintains an **Attorney Network**. *Our Network's attorneys provide legal representation to parents involved in Hague Abduction Convention cases.*

An Effective Solution

The 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction is an international treaty that provides a civil mechanism to bring about the prompt return of children who have been wrongfully removed from, or retained outside, the country of their habitual residence. The United States was a major force in preparing and negotiating the Convention, which was finalized in 1980 and entered into force for the United States on July 1, 1988. Since then, the Convention has been an important tool for reuniting families across international borders and in deterring potential abductions.

You Can Help

As the U.S. Central Authority for the Convention, the U.S. Department of State's Office of Children's Issues helps parents find legal representation to pursue remedies available under the Convention. The attorneys who join our Attorney Network share a commitment to helping parents pursue recovery of their children, as well as a commitment to implementing the Convention. Our office asks foreign applicants to provide financial eligibility information and asks attorneys to provide reduced fee or *pro bono* assistance for applicants who demonstrate need.

We hope that you will join our Attorney Network. Every family's case is an important one. By providing legal assistance to an eligible left-behind parent, you will make an immeasurable difference in the life of a child. We have attorneys on staff available to provide technical assistance for you, should the need arise. The attorneys who have joined our Attorney Network have found their cases both rewarding and interesting.

If you would like more information about our Attorney Network, please contact us at AbductionUSCA@state.gov, or 202-663-3119.





JOIN OUR NETWORK

Thank you for your interest in joining our Attorney Network. Our Network's attorneys provide legal representation to parents involved in Hague Abduction Convention cases.

Please email this form to AbductionUSCA@state.gov, or fax it to **202-736-9132**.

Name _____

Firm _____

Address _____

City and State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

States in which you are licensed

Languages Spoken

Type of practice: (litigation, family law, international, other) _____

Hague Litigation Experience Yes _____ No _____

Offer Pro Bono Legal Services Yes _____ No _____

Offer Reduced Fee Legal Services Yes _____ No _____

Office of Children's Issues

