

## 1st International Conference of Missing Children and Adults Parental Child Abduction Workshop

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## Parental Child Abduction A Brief Look at the Law – Child Abduction Act 1984



Section 1: Abduction of a child by a parent:

*"It is an offence for a person connected with a child under the age of 16 years to take or send that child out of the UK without the appropriate consent."*

**Connected with** means a person with

- Parental responsibility
- A Guardian of the child
- A person who has a Residence Order for the child, or
- A person who has Custody of the child

**Parental Responsibility**

- Mother automatically has Parental responsibility
- If the father is married to the mother at the time of the birth, he also automatically obtains parental responsibility

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A father, unmarried at the time of birth, only obtains Parental Responsibility if his name was recorded on the birth certificate at the time of registration (post December 2003). Prior to December 2003, an unmarried father did not obtain Parental Responsibility unless by way of:

- A Parental Responsibility Order
- A Parental Responsibility Agreement
- Or by re-registering the birth and having his name added to the birth certificate

Since the Adoption and Children Act 2002, unmarried fathers and step-parents can obtain Parental Responsibility by way of consent or a court order.

Same-sex partners with children can now obtain Parental Responsibility in the same way as step-parents and unmarried fathers

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**When can a child be taken out of the UK without consent?**

- If the other parent is in possession of one of these court orders:
  - A Residence Order in their favour and the removal is for LESS THAN a month
  - A Specific Issue Order granting leave to remove generally or for specific purposes
  - An order under Section 13(3) of the Children Act 1989 where there is a Residence Order not in their favour and they are granted Leave to Remove either generally or for specific purposes

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## Parental Child Abduction Agencies that can assist



**Interpol**

The International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) facilitates international police cooperation and can assist with international parental child abduction cases on a police to police basis.

**The International Child Abduction and Contact Unit (ICACU)**

ICACU is the Central Authority for England and Wales for the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (1980).

- Tel: 0207 911 7045/7047
- Fax: 0207 911 7248
- Email: [enquiries@offsofsoi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@offsofsoi.gov.uk)
- Website: <http://www.justice.gov.uk>



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## Parental Child Abduction Agencies that can assist



The UK Missing Persons Bureau offers support, guidance and tactical advice for police dealing with a Child Abduction incident. We can also provide advice for families and friends.

Tel: 0845 000 5481  
Email: [missingpersons@soca.pnn.police.uk](mailto:missingpersons@soca.pnn.police.uk)  
[missingpersons@soca.pnn.police.uk](mailto:missingpersons@soca.pnn.police.uk)  
Website: <http://missingpersons.police.uk>

**Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre**

The principle aim of CEOP is identifying, locating and safeguarding children and young people from harm. CEOP can offer tactical support on complex cases.

Tel: 0207 238 2514  
Website: <http://www.ceop.police.uk>



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**Parental Child Abduction**  
Agencies that can assist



Reunite provides advice, information and support to parents, family members and guardians whose children have been abducted or who fear abduction. We can be a point of contact for parents and police.

- Tel: 0116 2555 345
- Tel: 0116 2556 234 (advice line)
- Email: [reunite@dircon.co.uk](mailto:reunite@dircon.co.uk)
- Website: <http://www.reunite.org>

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office Consular Assistance**



The FCO Child Abduction Section provides assistance to British Nationals who are affected by international parental child abduction

- Tel: 0207 008 1500
- Email: [childabduction@fco.gov.uk](mailto:childabduction@fco.gov.uk)
- Website: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/child-abduction/>

**Parental Child Abduction**



Questions?