

My child's going to be taken out of Australia **without** my permission



Does your child already have a passport?

To apply for your child to receive an Australian passport, the Australian Passport Office will usually need both parents' signatures on the application form.

However, if the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) accepts that there are 'special considerations', or if there is a court order stating that the other parent has sole parental responsibility, then your child could receive a passport without your consent or signature.

Child Alert Requests

If you are worried that the other parent may apply for a passport without your consent, you should apply for a Child Passport Alert to be made. Doing so will allow DFAT to notify you of any attempts to have a passport issued for your child.

Not all countries need both parents' signatures on a passport application. If your child is entitled to receive a passport from another country, then you need to make enquiries about how this might happen.



Apply for a Family Law Watchlist Order

If your child already has a passport, then you should think about applying to the Family Court of Australia to place your child on the Family Law Watch List ("FLWL") to prevent them from leaving Australia. To have your child placed on the FLWL, you must file an application for a FLWL order in the Family Court or Federal Circuit Court and then notify the Australian Federal Police ("AFP") as soon as the court accepts your application.

You should seek advice from a private family lawyer, community legal centre or Legal Aid office. Further information is also available on the AFP website.

If you believe that there is an urgent risk that your child will be removed from Australia, you should contact your closest Family Court or Federal Circuit Court Registry.



CHECKLIST

- Do check if your child has a passport
- Do take measures whether or not your child has a passport
- Do seek legal advice from professionals
- Do speak to ISS Australia if you discover that your child has been taken from Australia. We can speak to you about any legal options for the return of your child





Does
your child
have an
Australian
passport?

YES

NO

WHO HAS THE
PASSPORT?

The
other
parent

I do

Can the
child receive
an overseas
passport?

Can the
child receive
an Australian
passport?

KEEP THE
PASSPORTS
SAFE AND
SECURE

YES

YES

CONSIDER
APPLYING FOR
A FAMILY LAW
WATCHLIST
ORDER

CONTACT THAT
COUNTRY'S
EMBASSY TO
FIND OUT IF A
CHILD
PASSPORT
ALERT CAN BE
PLACED FOR
THAT COUNTRY

CONSIDER
APPLYING FOR
A FAMILY LAW
WATCHLIST
ORDER

SUBMIT A
CHILD
PASSPORT
ALERT FORM
TO DFAT SO
THAT YOU WILL
BE NOTIFIED OF
ANY ATTEMPT
TO HAVE A
PASSPORT
ISSUED TO
YOUR CHILD