

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 Australia.

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**INTERNATIONAL
PARENTAL CHILD
ABDUCTION
SERVICES**

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HOW WE CAN ASSIST

International Social Service (ISS) Australia offers a variety of professional services to parents and families affected by IPCA.

All services are provided Australia wide and some services attract fees, which can be found on ISS Australia's website.

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY MEDIATION

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

SOCIAL WORK SERVICE

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

Our qualified social workers can assist people impacted by IPCA, including parents, extended family, children and professionals.

We provide the following free confidential services:

- Information, advice, referrals, support and counselling
- Practical and emotional support focused on the needs of children
- Support for intercountry contact between parents and children across international borders
- Preparation for and support during the challenging post return period

LEGAL SERVICE

ISS Australia's Legal Service provides free expert legal advice to parents whose children have been taken or kept overseas without their consent, or who are seeking access to children living overseas. We can also assist parents with questions about:

- preventing the removal of their children from Australia
- wishing to relocate overseas with your children

We can assist parents to prepare applications under the 1980 Hague Convention for the return of and access to children overseas in Hague counties. We can also prepare Bilateral Applications to Egypt and Lebanon.