

Materials on Interstate and International Parental Kidnapping

The ABA Center on Children and the Law, with support from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, has produced a variety of materials on the subject of parental child abductions. These were primarily written for attorneys, judges, and legislators. However, they should also be useful to missing children's organizations, law enforcement, child advocacy groups, and parents. The project director for the Center activities that produced these publications is Linda K. Girdner, Ph.D. Her principal colleague on these initiatives, and the drafter of much of this material, is Patricia M. Hoff, Esq., who has been associated with our Center as the legal expert on parental abduction issues since the early 1980's.

These documents are posted here in both Word format and ASCII Text format. Some of the charts, tables, and other formatting will be lost in the ASCII versions.

1. Parental Kidnapping Law Reform Package

Produced in 1996, this package includes three proposed state laws that can be adopted by state legislatures. This document describes the entire package.

[pkintro.doc](#)

[pkintro.txt](#)

2. Parental Kidnapping Crime Act

This is the first of these proposed state laws. It addresses the criminal justice system's handling of parental child abduction.

[pkcrime.doc](#)

[pkcrime.txt](#)

3. Missing Children Record Flagging Act

This is the second of the proposed state laws. It addresses the administrative "flagging" of official records that may be kept by local or state agencies on children who have been reported missing.

[pkflag.doc](#)

[pkflag.txt](#)

4. Tortious Interference With Child Custody and Visitation Act

This third proposed law would establish a state civil cause of action against persons who abduct a child or aid or abet that abduction.

[pktort.doc](#)

[pktort.txt](#)

5. Parental Kidnapping Prevention and Remedies

This publication, revised in December 2000, is designed to help attorneys better understand parental abduction cases and the laws that apply, and it provides practical tips on protections that can be placed in child custody orders that may help prevent an abduction. Tips that lawyers can give their parent clients, a review of possible legal actions that can be taken on parents' behalf, and government resources that can be used to help in these cases are also included.

[pkprevrem.doc](#)

[pkprevrem.txt](#)

6. Hague Child Abduction Convention Issue Briefs

If a child is abducted to another country, it might be to one of the 48 nations (including the U.S.) that have ratified the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. This 1997 material consists of four issue briefs that can be helpful to attorneys handling cases that fall under this Convention.

[issuebrf.doc](#)

[issuebrf.txt](#)

7. The Hague Convention: A Curriculum for American Judges and Lawyers

This 1997 publication is the culmination of Attorney Patricia Hoff's years of work and wisdom on how the Hague Convention can be effectively utilized within the United States in international parental kidnapping cases.

[haguecur.doc](#)

[haguecur.txt](#)