



SEARCH AND RECOVERY

General Advice

The discovery that one's child is missing is a traumatic experience. It is important that you stay calm and seek assistance from family, friends and appropriate professionals. Report your child's disappearance to the police and to the Consular Affairs Bureau, and consult with your lawyer.

A determined abducting parent can make the search for and recovery of a missing child an extremely complex process. It is very difficult even when the abductor is still in Canada. When the abductor leaves Canada, the process becomes far more complicated. Search and recovery efforts can be prolonged and are often unsuccessful. Therefore, you should not have unrealistic expectations of results, or expect results in a matter of days or, in some instances, months. You should be well organized in this process, establishing reasonable goals and expectations. These may include:

- obtaining early confirmation of where your child is located;
- obtaining early confirmation of the well-being of your child;
- arranging a meeting, as soon as possible, between your child and a Canadian official;
- becoming informed about your legal situation both in Canada and in the country where your child is located;
- understanding the limitations and constraints that may affect the return of your child to Canada;
- learning about the legal process; and
- understanding the potential financial implications for you and other members of your family in the search and recovery process.

It is crucial that you be reachable at all times, in case someone tries to communicate with you about your missing child.