Among the services offered through the RCMP's Missing Children's Registry is the Travel Reunification Program, which is designed to help parents or guardians who cannot afford to pay the cost of having an abducted child returned to Canada. To qualify for the travel assistance offered by the program, the following guidelines must be met:

> The request for assistance must come from the investigating police department, the provincial / territorial central authority or the Consular Affairs Bureau.

> The requesting agency is responsible for assessing the financial status of the family and determining if free transportation and accommodation should be provided.

> The service is available only to return a child abducted by a parent.

> A parent or guardian will not be sent overseas unless all legal steps have been taken for the return of the child to Canada and the local authorities are co-operating in the return.

The Media

Publicity can be both helpful and detrimental in international child abductions. It is important, therefore, that you discuss the matter of publicity with your local police and / or your lawyer. You should discuss the matter with the Consular Affairs Bureau, as well. In some countries, publicity could affect the willingness or ability of local authorities to assist in the return of your child. It may also cause the abducting parent to go into hiding and, in so doing, create further stress and danger for your child.

Search Agencies

A number of private organizations will carry out search activities on your behalf for a fee and / or expenses. You should obtain advice and guidance from professionals, including the local police and non-governmental organizations (see Section VI for addresses), before engaging such agencies to act on your behalf. If you do decide to engage such an organization, it is important to have your lawyer involved in any negotiations to protect your financial interests and to ensure that the proposed activities do not further complicate the search for and recovery of your child.