



officials must act in accordance with the laws of the country concerned.

If you were to succeed in having your child returned to Canada in such circumstances, there

would be no guarantee that you would not be subject to further attempts by the other parent to re-abduct your child. It is also possible that Canadian courts might recognize the rights of the other parent and order the child returned to the foreign country.

V – Assistance from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

When a Canadian child is abducted to another country, the Consular Affairs Bureau works closely with Canadian diplomatic and consular missions abroad, the local police, the RCMP, the Hague Convention authorities and others. Their assistance will be provided only at your explicit request, made personally or by a person authorized in writing to act on your behalf. All planned actions will be discussed with you in advance.

You can contact the Consular Affairs Bureau 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at **1-800-267-6788** (in Canada) or **(613) 996-8885**. These emergency numbers will put you in contact with a case officer, who will remain in charge of your case. You should have available the information detailed in Section VII.

Your case officer in Ottawa will supply the information to a consular official in the Canadian diplomatic or consular mission overseas who, working with the local authorities or other people, will assist in the efforts to find your child. The first step is to attempt to confirm the entry of your child into the country by using immigration and other records. Unfortunately, not every country maintains such records in an easily retrievable form. Some countries may not be prepared to release such information, especially if the child and/or the abducting parent is a citizen.

A. What the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade CAN DO

- ❖ in cases where the Hague Convention applies (see Section III), assist you in making direct contact with the relevant Canadian provincial/territorial central authority, and assist the central authorities both in Canada and abroad;

- ❖ in cases where the Hague Convention does not apply, attempt to locate and visit the child and report on his/her welfare;
- ❖ work with the central Passport Office in establishing what travel documentation may have been used by your child;
- ❖ contact foreign diplomatic or consular missions in Canada to establish what travel documentation may have been used, or whether a visa was issued;
- ❖ provide you with information on the country concerned, including its legal system, family laws and a list of lawyers there who may be willing to act on your behalf in the return of your child and assist in the authentication of needed documents;
- ❖ should you decide to travel to the country to which the abduction took place, provide you with advice and guidance before departure and ensure that officials from the Canadian diplomatic or consular mission are available to assist you upon your arrival;
- ❖ provide you with a point of contact and information;
- ❖ monitor judicial and administrative proceedings overseas and provide you with information on developments;
- ❖ assist you in contacting officials in other countries or contact them on your behalf;
- ❖ provide information and advice on things that you can do and/or that other organizations or offices of the Canadian government can do;
- ❖ provide foreign authorities with any evidence of child abuse or neglect.