



## D. Canadian Passports

Canadian government regulations permit the issuance of a passport to a child under 16 years of age if the applicant is the parent, the custodial parent or the legal guardian. The regulations also permit the inclusion of a child's name in the passport of either the parent or the custodial parent. If parents are separated or divorced, a child will not be issued with a passport or be included in either parent's passport unless the application is supported by evidence that the issue of the passport is not contrary to the terms of a custody order or a separation agreement.

If you fear the abduction of your child, you may notify any passport office in Canada or the nearest Canadian diplomatic or consular mission abroad to have your child's name placed on a list that puts officials on alert. You will then be notified if a request for passport services is made for your child. Before your child's name is included on this list, you will be asked to provide the names and birth dates of both parents and the child, as well as copies of any child custody-related documents.

The address for the central Passport Office is given in Section VI. There are 28 regional passport offices across Canada. Consult the federal government section of your telephone directory for the one nearest you.

## E. Dual Nationality

Many international child abductions involve parents and children who have citizenship of other countries in addition to Canada. Dual nationality is permissible under Canadian law. The fact that the abducting parent may carry another passport could create additional difficulty for you and Canadian authorities in preventing an abduction. The Government of Canada cannot prevent diplomatic or consular missions of other countries in Canada or elsewhere from providing passport services to Canadian children who are also citizens of their countries.

You or your lawyer can request a foreign diplomatic or consular mission not to provide passport services for your child. To do so, you should provide the diplomatic or consular mission with a written request, along with a certified copy of any court orders dealing with custody of or foreign travel by your child. In such a letter you can inform the diplomatic or consular mission that you have also sent a copy of your request to the Consular Affairs Bureau. If your child has only Canadian citizenship, you can ask the foreign diplomatic or consular mission not to issue a visa (if one is required for entry) for a particular country in the Canadian passport in which your child's name appears. There is no requirement for other countries to comply with such requests, but many countries do so voluntarily in the interest of preventing international child abductions.

## II – If Your Child Has Been Abducted

If your child has been abducted to a country that is a party to the Hague Convention, please refer to Section III.

### Search and Recovery

#### 1. General Advice

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, and the search and recovery efforts can be prolonged and 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 for yourself, which 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;