

If information of possible abuse or neglect of a child becomes available to consular officers, the matter is discussed, with your permission, with local child welfare and law enforcement officials, possibly through the offices of International Social Service Canada. They, along with the Canadian diplomatic mission, can ask local authorities to become involved and ensure that the child is protected.

E. Re-abductions

The trauma and difficulties associated with international parental child abductions have led many parents to consider self-help measures such as the re-abduction of the child. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade strongly advises against such desperate and often illegal measures. Such action could further endanger your child and others, prejudice any future legal efforts and result in your arrest and imprisonment in another country. If you are tried and convicted in that country, it does not necessarily follow that the foreign court will give any weight to your custodial rights in Canada in imposing a sentence.

Canadian officials, whether in Ottawa or in other countries, cannot take possession of a child abducted by a parent or assist others in acting in violation of the laws of a foreign country. Such 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.

