

Dual Citizenship & Child Abduction

Many international child abductions involve parents and children who have dual citizenship. If the abducting parent carries a second passport, Canadian authorities may encounter difficulties in preventing the abduction. The Government of Canada cannot prevent another country from providing passport services to Canadian parents or children who are also citizens of that country.

You or your lawyer can request that a foreign diplomatic or consular mission not provide passport services for your child. To do so, provide the mission with a written request, along with a certified copy of any court orders dealing with custody or foreign travel by your child. Inform the foreign diplomatic or consular mission that you have also sent a copy of your request to the Consular Affairs Bureau of Foreign Affairs Canada in Ottawa.

For more information, consult the publication *International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents* at www.voyage.gc.ca.

Marriage, divorce and child custody: Canada recognizes the legality of marriages performed in other countries. However, marriages performed in Canada may not always be considered legal in other countries. Similarly, divorce and child custody documents issued by Canadian courts may not be recognized.

Education: If the country of your second citizenship provided

you with free education, especially at the secondary or professional level, you may be held liable for reimbursing the costs. This is particularly the case if you obtained the education outside the country of your second citizenship.

Inheritances: Some countries may not permit the transfer of inheritances to nationals with a second citizenship.