

Other reasons why extradition is seldom used in connection with parental child abductions include:

- ❖ Very few extradition treaties between Canada and other countries include parental child abduction or custodial interference as extraditable offences.
- ❖ In more recent treaties, efforts have been made to include the concept of "dual criminality" as the basis for extradition. However, this requires that parental child abduction be considered a crime in both of the countries that have signed the treaty.
- ❖ Many civil law countries (in contrast with common law countries such as Canada, Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom) will not extradite their own nationals. Nearly all the countries of Latin America and Europe are civil law countries. Experience has shown that foreign governments are generally reluctant and often unwilling to extradite anyone for parental child abduction.

In order that the police and the Crown can do the best possible job in dealing with your complaint, it is essential that you provide all of the information available to you and any new information that might arise subsequently. Based on this information, the best possible decisions can be made in your and your child's interest.

C. Communications and Compromise

As the foregoing information illustrates, legal approaches to dealing with international parental child abduction cases can be prolonged, expensive and often inconclusive. Before embarking on legal solutions, you should carefully consider and explore alternative solutions such as negotiation with the abducting parent. In some cases it may be possible to have friends or relatives of the abductor assist you in establishing contact with the abducting parent and help to promote a compromise. As well, it may be possible that community or religious leaders may be willing to intervene on your behalf.

Such actions might not produce immediate results but could reduce tensions, promote the welfare of your child and increase the chances of your being able to visit the child and participate in some way in decisions affecting his or her welfare and well-being. Sometimes compromise and reconciliation will be the only solution.

D. Information on the Welfare of Your Child

If your child has been found and it is not possible for you to establish direct communications, Canadian consular officers in the country concerned can try on your behalf to make arrangements to visit the child. If they succeed in seeing your child, they will provide you with reports on his/her health, living conditions, schooling and other information. Sometimes consular officers are also able to deliver letters and photographs to your child and send you the same in return. If the abducting parent will not permit such a visit, the Canadian diplomatic mission can request the assistance of the local authorities, either to arrange such visits or to have a local social worker involved.

The Department of Foreign Affairs works closely with International Social Service Canada on such matters where it is appropriate. ISS Canada uses its worldwide network of social and family welfare contacts to mediate with abducting parents, establish communications, obtain information on abducted children and promote their well-being.