



## ACTION CHECKLIST

As the parent of an abducted child, you are facing a very difficult situation. The first thing you should do is enlist the support of family and friends to help you cope with the trying and complex efforts of recovering your child.

This checklist assumes that your child has been or is suspected of having been abducted abroad, to a country that is not a party to the Hague Convention. If the country in question is a signatory country to the Convention, one of your first steps should be to contact the provincial / territorial central authority. If you are unsure, contact the central authority for your province / territory, the federal central authority or the Consular Affairs Bureau (contact information is given in Section VI).

### *Emergency Action—What to Do Right Away*

- Contact your local police and file a missing persons report.
- Contact the Consular Affairs Bureau. Explain the circumstances and request that a search be initiated to find your child and determine his or her welfare.
- Advise the RCMP's Missing Children's Registry in Ottawa.
- If you do not have a judicial custody order or one that prohibits your child from travelling without your permission, contact a Canadian lawyer. Such an order can be obtained even after a child is abducted and, while not essential under Canadian law, will be valuable in dealing with foreign authorities.
- Contact the central Passport Office (or Consular Affairs Bureau) to see whether a passport was issued for your child and to have your child's name placed on the Passport Control List.
- If you have joint credit cards or banking facilities with the other parent, find out your liability and take appropriate action.
- If your child is a dual national, inform the diplomatic or consular office of that country in Canada of what has happened and enquire whether a