

The first and most important element is to determine exactly where your child is. Recovery actions cannot be taken until your child's location is known. The following agencies can assist you in finding and recovering your child.

2. Local Police

As soon as you suspect that your child has been abducted, do the following:

- ❖ Immediately contact your local police department. The sooner the police network can begin to search and investigate, the better.
- ❖ When you contact the local police, have a copy of any custody order and photographs and descriptions of the child or children and the abducting parent. You should also provide any other information that may lead to the quick discovery of the location of your child. A listing of such information is provided in Section VII.
- ❖ Ask local police to enter the information in the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) computer system, so that all police forces in Canada will have access to it. Also request that the information be entered in the United States National Crime Information Centre (NCIC) computer system.
- ❖ If you believe that your child has been or may be taken out of the country, request that the local police immediately contact the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Missing Children's Registry. Also contact the Consular Operations Division and/or your provincial Hague Convention central authority.

Your local police may initiate some of the following, or seek your assistance in so doing:

- ❖ review with you and other authorities whether criminal charges should be laid against the abducting parent;
- ❖ notify your child's school authorities of the abduction, and request that they advise you or your lawyer in the event that there is a request for school records. You may need to provide the school authorities with a certified copy of your custody order;
- ❖ review credit cards the abducting parent may have and request records of purchases;
- ❖ obtain copies of records of long-distance calls the abducting parent may have made prior to the abduction;
- ❖ suggest the publication of an INTERPOL circular;
- ❖ if your child has chronic medical problems or is on regular medication, contact the physician or hospital that was used for your child and request their co-operation should there be a request for information concerning your child. Here too, you may need to provide a certified copy of your custody order;
- ❖ if there are common credit cards or joint bank accounts, check your liability for transactions by your spouse and take appropriate action.