

ISTAND PARENT NETWORK

iStand Until All Children Come Home

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Exit Controls: From 2000 to 2015: Why Are We Still Talking About This?



Issues in Resolving Cases of International Child Abduction by Parents



Return US Home (RUSH): Recommendation



GAO: Program Aimed at High-Risk Parent Abductors Could Aid in Preventing Abductions



Policy Recommendation

Issues in Resolving Cases of International Child Abduction by Parents



Excerpted from Dec. 2001 OJJDP Report: "A number of existing laws and regulations create obstacles that make the location and recovery of internationally abducted children very difficult. In some cases, existing regulations actually make an international abduction easier to accomplish. Some existing laws and regulations should be changed. Recommended changes include the following: Revise existing U.S. departure regulations to require that adults accompanying minors exiting the country must show proof of permission from all parents or guardians or a valid court order indicating that they alone can give permission. Change current rules regarding issuance of passports to minors so that all parents or guardians must give permission unless a current court order specifies that permission of only one parent is required. (The law was recently changed to require both parents to sign a passport application for children under age 14, and new regulations will elaborate the specifics of this requirement.) For more information go to: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/190105.pdf>

Return US Home (RUSH): Congressional Recommendation - April 2015



Demand that Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) require notarized or court issued documentation from adults traveling alone with minor children to international destinations. Presently, CBP only allows its agents to demand these documents at their own discretion. It is true that many cases of international parental child abduction occur after the left-behind parent has granted consent for the abducting parent to travel abroad. However, a large number of these abductions occur through the use of illegally and/or covertly obtained foreign passports by the abducting parent. For these families, CBP is the strongest and final means of prevention. It is irresponsible to inform a left-behind parent that CBP agents are already overtasked and unable to demand these documents on a routine basis. Any adult traveling alone, internationally, with a minor child, would already be required to have these documents on hand for use in other countries. The amount of money, time and resources needed to implement a requirement for this documentation would pale in comparison to those consumed annually on the abduction cases handled by the State Department, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the FBI, and Interpol. www.returnushome.com

GAO: Program Aimed at High-Risk Parent Abductors Could Aid in Preventing Abductions



Excerpted from June 2011 Government Accountability Office report: "Since 2000, the annual number of new international parental child abduction cases reported to the Department of State—many of which likely involved air travel—has nearly tripled. Thus, preventing such abductions can help keep parents and children from being separated for a long period or indefinitely. GAO recommends that DHS consider creating a program similar to the child abduction component of its Prevent Departure program that would apply to U.S. citizens. DHS concurred with the recommendation, but cited challenges toward implementing it, such as potential constitutional, operational, privacy, and resource issues. A high-risk abductor list program could operate similarly to the Prevent Departure list program but would apply to U.S. citizens. While stakeholders pointed out certain limitations to such a high-risk abductor list—such as the relatively difficult and time-consuming steps needed to place a child and potential abductor on this list—such a list may be helpful in preventing abductions on airline flights." For more information go to: <http://gao.gov/assets/320/319992.pdf>

iStand Parent Network Congressional Recommendation - April 2015



Exit Controls

Exit controls especially are critical to preventing and deterring abductions. In the current context of the contentious debate over the appropriate role of U.S. government in immigration matters, exit controls present a unifying, bi-partisan opportunity to strengthen border controls to protect U.S. children and prevent their unlawful removal. Proper implementation of the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction and Prevention Return Act of 2013 (Goldman Act) may result in innovations and similar legislation at the state level, especially in states where parents and families are actively advocating this issue.

iStand Parent Network recommends amending Title III of the Goldman Act to establish a federal registry for parents to voluntarily register children who may be risk for international abduction or wrongful removal.

iStand Parent Network
www.istandparentnetwork.com
istandparentnetwork@gmail.com
HOTLINE: 844-iStand1