



The work and role of reunite



Advice Line Service

- To provide advice, information and support to parents, family members and guardians whose children have been abducted or who fear abduction.
- To provide advice, information and support to parents who may have abducted their child.
- To advise in international contact cases and cases of “permission to remove”.
- To provide an emergency advice line service outside of office hours.
- To provide child abduction prevention guides which offer clear and concise information on the legal procedure and practical steps to take if a child is in danger of abduction.



Core Activities

- Advice Line Service
- Mediation Service
- A database covering 40 muslim states which includes summary of the relevant information for each country
- Parent forum
- International and national lawyers listing
- Research



Setting the scene

- In 2010 -
 - 1,087 New Cases
 - 351 Abduction cases
 - 513 Children
 - 295 prevention cases
 - 408 children
- Top 3 Hague (abduction)
 - Spain
 - Poland
 - USA/ France
- Top 3 Non-Hague (abduction)
 - Pakistan
 - India
 - Egypt / Thailand
- Case Studies

Warning Signs

- Break down in relationship.
- Limited ties. I.e no family, no mortgage, no income, no social network.
- Change in circumstances, such as resigning from a job, taking child out of school, giving up tenancy on property, meeting a new partner.
- Expressing a wish to take child on holiday alone.
- A sudden interest to move the family abroad, back to the parent's country of birth.
- A sudden interest in getting a passport of nationality, or passport in general, and birth certificate or trying to make the child citizen/resident.
- Sudden change in contact plans. I.e not allowing contact to take place when agreed when usually there is no problem.
- Child not being returned at the end of a contact visit.
- An extended visit from a family member from the country of nationality.

Who abducts - dispelling the myths

- reunite statistics show that
 - in 70% of abduction cases, the abductor is the mother.
 - in 23% of abduction cases, the abductor is the father.
 - in 7% of abduction cases, the abductor is a family member.
- A mother can remove a child for up to 28 days irrelevant of the circumstances.
- You don't need a court order before a 'Port Alert' is issued.
- The child's with the mother / father so it's ok.
- It's only a holiday so it's ok.
- It's a domestic and there's nothing we can do.
- It's a civil matter.
- Child abduction is a criminal offence.