

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION GUIDE FOR **GREECE**

This Prevention Guide has been produced to assist you in gathering together information relating to your children if you fear they may be abducted, as well as information which may be required in the event of an abduction.

Some of the information may be required by your local police force so that details of your children can be circulated, if necessary, which may help to prevent them leaving the country without your permission.

Some of the information may be required by others, such as your solicitor, so that if your children are removed from the country they may hopefully be returned to you.

This Guide has been jointly produced by the Police Service and **reunite** International Child Abduction Centre with the support and guidance of The Home Office, The Ministry of Justice, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, The Identity and Passport Service and The UK Border Agency.

Please take your time in reading all the advice in this Guide and if you are in doubt as to what is required of you, ask your solicitor or contact **reunite** for advice.

reunite offers the only advice line service in the UK specialising in international parental child abduction, open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5.00pm. The advice line telephone number is **0116 2556 234**. If you have an emergency situation outside of these times call the advice line and you will be directed to our 24hr emergency service.

What You Must Do

As soon as possible after receiving this Guide you should do the following:

For every child in your family you think is at risk of abduction:

1. Complete a description form.
2. Complete a fingerprint form using the guidance notes and pre-inked strip.
3. Take two photographs of the child (passport sized photos are ideal).
4. Write on the back of the photographs the name and date of birth of the child concerned and the date the photo was taken.
5. Get one photocopy of the description form once you have completed it.
6. Get one photocopy of the child's birth certificate.
7. Get one photocopy of any court order relating to the child.

For every person you think is likely to be a future abductor:

1. Complete a description form.
2. Get one photocopy of the description form once you have completed it.
3. Try to get a photograph of the likely abductor.
4. Write on the back of the photograph the name and date of birth of the likely abductor and the date the photo was taken.
5. If the photograph is of a group of people, write on the back the location in the group of the subject(s) e.g. back row, third from left.

In relation to yourself

1. Complete the details form.
2. Get one photocopy of the details form once you have completed it.
3. Get one photocopy of your marriage certificate to any likely abductor.

Split all the forms into two sets as follows:

Set 1: The originals for you
to store safely:

The original description forms, details form, birth and marriage certificates, court orders, one set of photographs and the completed fingerprint form.

Set 2: For your solicitor:

Photocopies of descriptions forms, details form, birth and marriage certificates, court orders and one set of photographs.

We advise you to then speak with a specialist solicitor if you have not already done so. Further advice can be sought from the **reunite** advice line or by visiting our website at www.reunite.org.

Once a solicitor is appointed to your case then pass them a set of the documents for safekeeping.

Actions to be considered

If you can answer **yes** to either of the following questions then you should consider taking the following action.

1. Do you believe that your child may be abducted within the next 48 hrs?
2. Do you think your child may be taken out of the country?

Action

1. Inform your legal advisor. He or she can then make arrangements to obtain a High Court Temporary Order to prevent removal of a child from Greece. You must then submit it to your local police station informing them of the circumstances, and they will initiate an 'All Ports Warning'.
2. At the same time demand from the Public Prosecutor to issue an order for the police to investigate the situation.

Note: You do not need a court order for a child aged under 16 years, but it may assist you later if the child is successfully taken from Greece.

The issue of an 'All Ports Warning' by the police will not necessarily prevent the removal of a child from Greece.

Passports

Advice and action relating to passports is dependent upon whether your child already has a passport or is mentioned on another person's passport. Please read the following information carefully and if you have trouble understanding it then please call the **reunite** advice line for assistance.

1. If your child does not have a passport of their own, or is not mentioned on the passport of another person:

- a) Provided that no objection has been lodged at a Passport Office of the competent prefecture in Greece by a parent or other objector, standard passport facilities are normally granted to children with the consent of both parents.
- b) Where the parents have not been married to each other, the mother's consent is required if the father does not have 'parental care'.
- c) An objector can ask the Passport Authority not to issue a passport for a child if a court in Greece has made one of the following orders: -
 - i) an order awarding the objecting parent sole parental care;
 - ii) an order specifying that the objector's consent to the removal of the child from the jurisdiction is necessary;
 - iii) an order requiring the surrender of a Greek passport and prohibiting the making of a further passport application or otherwise upholding an objection to a child having a passport or leaving the country.
- d) If there is no court order, an objection can be considered from the mother (but only if the parents have not been married to each other) where she has notified the Passport Authorities of an intention to exercise her power of arrest due to the fact that she has sole parental care.
- e) Where the parents are or have been married to each other, or are unmarried but the father nevertheless has parental care and rights in relation to the child, then either parent should consider lodging an objection where an abduction is feared.

2. If your child has a passport of their own:

- a) If you have possession of it then keep it in a safe place.
- b) If you do not have possession of it, if possible get it and keep it in a safe place.
- c) If the passport has been lost, report the loss to your local Police Station and then inform the Passport Agency so that you can obtain a replacement.
- d) If the passport is with the other parent who you fear could be a possible abductor, if the other parent has been married to you, or the other parent has parental responsibility, ask that person to return the passport to you. If they refuse obtain legal advice. A court may order the surrender of any passport issued to, or which contains particulars of, any child likely to be abducted. This usually takes the form of the passport being lodged at a solicitor's office and it cannot be returned to the holder without the permission of the court.
- e) If the passport is with someone else they have no right to it unless a court has allowed them to do so. If no court order exists ask for the return of the passport. If they refuse, inform the Police.

3. If your child is mentioned on the passport of another person:

- a) If the child is mentioned on your own passport keep it in a safe place.
- b) If the child is mentioned on the passport of the likely abductor, obtain legal advice. A court may order the surrender of any passport issued to, or which contains particulars of, any child likely to be abducted.

Additional information relating to passports

- When a court orders a passport to be surrendered, your solicitor must immediately notify the Passport Authorities (police, competent prefecture) to prevent another one being issued; the Passport Authorities must be provided with a copy of the court order.
- However, to avoid delay, we strongly recommend that the Passport Authorities be notified of the circumstances separately, by you or your solicitor.
- Ideally you should ensure that all relevant children have their own passport and any reference to them in anyone else's passport is deleted by the Passport Authorities.
- The addresses of the Passport Authorities are:

1st Athens' Police Department (Passport Authority Department)
7A Samou Street, Metaxourghio
Athens

Tel: +30 210 52 84 170
Fax: +30 210 52 46 305

Central Police Station (Department for Children)
173, Alexandras Avenue
Athens

Tel: +30 210 64 29 890
Fax: +30 210 64 76 364

<http://www.passport.gov.gr>

- Where an abduction is suspected in the future and you are visiting a foreign country with your child, you are advised to have details of the numbers of both your passport and your child/children's passport(s). In the event of theft or loss you will be able to obtain a replacement from the nearest Greek passport issuing authority more easily.

Dual Nationality

1. If your child is Greek and you are unsure whether he or she may also be a national of another country, you should check this with the Embassy or Consulate of the other country.
2. If your child is a dual national or is not a Greek national, you must contact the Embassy or Consulate of the other country and ask them not to issue a passport to your child. They are not obliged to, but may do so voluntarily. If you do not succeed, take legal advice. It is possible that the court may order surrender of a foreign passport.
3. Details of Diplomatic Missions in Athens can be found in the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, www.mfa.gr.

Birth Certificates

1. By law the Registrar for Births must give a copy of any birth certificate to anyone who requests it.
2. The Townhall's Citizens' Information Office can by telephone order receive an application for a copy of the birth certificate.
3. The address of the Registrar is:
60, Mitropoleos Street
Athens
4. The telephone number at which you can submit the application for a copy of a birth certificate is 1502.

Fingerprinting Your Child

Reasons for doing it

You are asked to take fingerprints because they may be used in the future to identify your child.

Whilst this is less relevant for older children where identification is unlikely to be an issue, this is certainly true of babies and very young children. It is possible that if an abduction of such a child from England & Wales is successful they may not be found for some time in another country. In the absence of other identifying marks, such as birthmarks or dental impressions, parents may find it difficult to prove that their child is the same person as the abducted child. Hence, the taking of fingerprints will go a long way to assisting in these cases.

However, please note that the courts of the foreign country may not accept this "fingerprint evidence".

Taking of fingerprints

Please follow the instructions below so that the fingerprints are clear and can be used correctly.

Before you do anything else

1. Fold the fingerprint form along the lines shown. This will greatly assist you in the taking of the prints.
2. Ensure that the hands of your child are thoroughly washed and dry **BEFORE** you start to take the fingerprints.
3. Make sure that you take the fingerprints of the correct hand.
4. Avoid contact between the ink and clothing.

After taking the fingerprints

1. Put the fingerprint form in a safe place to dry for 15 minutes.
2. Ensure that it cannot be smudged.
3. To remove the ink from the hands of your child use an ordinary hand cleanser.

Complete the details below for each child at risk of abduction

Surname:			
Forename(s):			
Gender:		Nationality:	
Date of Birth:		Place of Birth:	
Address:			
Post Code:			
Telephone Number:			
Ethnic Appearance:	White / Mixed (please state) / Asian / Black / Chinese Other (please state)		
Height:		Build:	
Eye Colour:		Glasses Wearer:	Yes / No (please circle)
Hair Colour:		Hair Length:	
Birth Marks/Distinguishing features:	If yes, please provide details here:		
Blood Group:		NHS Number:	
Any special medication required:			
Passport Number:		Date & Place of Issue	
Any relevant court orders:	If yes, please provide details here:		

Complete the details below for each child at risk of abduction

Surname:			
Forename(s):			
Gender:		Nationality:	
Date of Birth:		Place of Birth:	
Address:			
Post Code:			
Telephone Number:			
Ethnic Appearance:	White / Mixed (please state) / Asian / Black / Chinese Other (please state)		
Height:		Build:	
Eye Colour:		Glasses Wearer:	Yes / No (please circle)
Hair Colour:		Hair Length:	
Birth Marks/Distinguishing features:	If yes, please provide details here:		
Blood Group:		NHS Number:	
Any special medication required:			
Passport Number:		Date & Place of Issue	
Any relevant Court orders:	If yes, please provide details here:		

Complete the details below for each potential abductor

Surname:			
Forename(s):			
Maiden Name: (if applicable)			
Relationship to Child(ren):			
Gender:		Nationality:	
Date of Birth:		Place of Birth:	
Last Known Address:			
Post Code:			
Telephone Number:		Mobile Telephone Number:	
Ethnic Appearance:	White / Mixed (please state) / Asian / Black / Chinese Other (please state)		
Height:		Build:	
Eye Colour:		Glasses Wearer:	Yes / No (please circle)
Hair Colour:		Hair Length:	
Facial Hair:		Distinctive Accent:	
Birth Marks/Tattoos/ Distinguishing features:	If yes, please provide details here:		
Passport Number:		Date & Place of Issue	
UK N.I. Number		Vehicle Details: (Registration, Make, Model, Colour)	

Details of potential abductors links overseas

RELATIVES:	
Name:	
Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Name:	
Address:	
Telephone Number:	

FRIENDS:	
Name:	
Address:	
Telephone Number:	

BUSINESS CONTACTS:	
Name:	
Address:	
Telephone Number:	

If necessary continue on a separate sheet.

Your own details

Surname:			
Forename(s):			
Maiden Name: (if applicable)			
Relationship to Child(ren):			
Address:			
Post Code:			
Home Telephone Number:		Mobile Telephone Number:	
Date of Birth:		Place of Birth:	
Nationality:			
If you are / were married to the abductor, the date of the marriage			

Details of your solicitor

Name:			
Firm:			
Address:			
Post Code:			
Telephone Number:		Mobile Number:	

**The following information should
be used if you believe an abduction
is imminent, or if your child
has been abducted.**

Action to be taken in the event of an imminent abduction

If you fear that your child may be abducted in the immediate future, you must act quickly to convince the police that the risk is real and imminent. Information on the role of the Police and how they can assist you and consider issuing an all ports warning is given on page 3 of this Guide.

We strongly recommend you contact the **reunite** advice line on +44 (0) 116 2556 234. If you call this number outside of office hours you will be directed to our 24-hour emergency service.

Consular Assistance

The Consular Affairs, Directorate for Administrative and Judicial Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs contact details:

Citizens Information Office

Information Centre
3, Akademias St.
Stoa Davaki

Opening Hours: 10.00 – 14.00

Tel: 210 36 82 700
Fax: 210 36 82 474
Email: cio@mfa.gr

E3 Directorate for Administrative and Judicial Affairs

3, Akademias St.
6th Floor

Opening hours: 10.00 – 13.00 (every Monday, Wednesday, Friday)

Tel: 210 36 82 631
Fax: 210 36 82 345

Whilst the Consular Affairs Office cannot intervene formally they can still provide advice and assistance.

In the absence of an amicable settlement, the only recourse may be to initiate legal proceedings in the court of the country concerned. They cannot recommend lawyers but you can be provided with a list of local lawyers who correspond in English from the various embassies as well as from the Athens Bar Association.

Athens Bar Association

60, Academias St.
GR-106 79

Tel: 210 33 98 205

These lawyers can advise about parental rights under local law and what, if any, local customary child care and control practices exist which might influence a court's decision in a child custody case.

Greek Consuls **cannot** recover children for parents, become involved in illegal attempts to return children to Greece, pay legal costs, fund air travel for parents, nor obtain visas on behalf of parents, for the countries concerned.