

Parental Child Abduction

What is parental child abduction?

Criminal parental child abduction occurs when one parent takes or keeps the child away from the other parent, does not have consent from the other parent to take or keep the child, and intentionally deprives the other parent of custody rights.

This video depicts an example of a concerned mother who believes her child is the victim of parental abduction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PppfqrCdOcs>

Indicators of risks for parental child abduction may include:

- the other parent has previously abducted the child;
- the other parent makes direct or indirect threats about taking the child;
- the child has made concerning comments about moving with the other parent;
- the other parent has made significant life changes, such as quitting a job, selling a home, or planning an extended trip abroad;
- the other parent is hostile towards you, uses controlling behavior and is critical of your parenting; or
- the relationship with your partner is breaking down, and he or she is from another province or country.

What to do if your child is abducted:

- In the event your child is missing, either as a result of parental child abduction or otherwise, contact the local police to file a report.
- Contact Child Find Saskatchewan, a provincial organization that offers support for families and the police in searching for your child.
- If you believe your child has been taken out of the country by the other parent, contact the Central Authority at the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice at (306) 787-5709.

How to prevent child abduction:

- If you are concerned about the risk of parental child abduction, ensure the child's living arrangements are documented in an agreement or court order and, if necessary, restrict travel in the agreement or order. You can ask the court to order that travel documents be surrendered to the court.
- Keep current information, including photos, to help identify your child. Child Find Saskatchewan can assist with an "All About Me ID," a comprehensive personal identification booklet.

- Keep a current list of information about your ex-partner's place of employment, residence, vehicle, passport number, and relatives and friends who may know their whereabouts.
- If you suspect your ex-partner is planning to take your child out of the country, you may want to contact Passport Canada to prevent a new passport from being issued for your child.
- Both parents should focus on the best interests of the child and try to maintain a positive relationship. Counselling or mediation services may assist in improving the parental relationship. This may not be possible in an abusive relationship.

If you have been in contact with a child who may have been abducted:

- Check online to see if you recognize a missing child on these websites: Child Find Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police, Canada's Missing, the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, and Missing Children Society of Canada.
- Make a list of any suspicions and details of your encounters with the child or the parent and contact the local police. Anonymous tips can also be provided at www.missingkids.ca or at 1-866-KID-TIPS or at Child Find SK. at 306-955-0070 or 1-800-513-FIND open 24/7/365.

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