

# FOR PARENTS WANTING TO BRING CHILDREN LIVING OVERSEAS BACK TO JAPAN OR SEE THEM

What support the Japanese Government can offer you



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



**My children traveled to see the other parent living separately in a foreign country, but they have not been returned to Japan even after the scheduled date.**

**If you have any of these problems, please**

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**We can help you seek your children's return, or**

#### **Contact Information**

## **Hague Convention Division**

**TEL: 03-5501-8466**

**Email: [hagueconventionjapan@mofa.go.jp](mailto:hagueconventionjapan@mofa.go.jp)**

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**I want to meet my children living overseas. I want to contact them by email or telephone.**



**My children have been taken overseas by the other parent without my permission. I want to bring my children back to Japan!**

**contact the Hague Convention Division!**

**visitation or contacts with your children.**

### **Hague Convention provides as follows:**

- 1. International cooperation between the Contracting States to return the wrongfully removed or retained children to the countries where they have originally lived.**
- 2. International cooperation between the Contracting States in order to secure opportunities for trans-boundary parent-child contact.**

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## Procedural steps toward your children's return or visitation / contacts with your children

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**1**

First of all, contact the Hague Convention Division

TEL: **03-5501-8466**

Email: **hagueconventionjapan@mofa.go.jp**

When you call the Hague Convention Division, you will be asked the following questions.

- **How old is your child? (Is he/she under 16?)**
- **Which country is your child living now?**  
\*Please check the Hague Convention contracting states on our website.
- **The date when your child was taken, and other details**
- **Do you have the parental authority (custody rights of the child)?**
- **Do you seek return of your child and/or visitation/contacts with your child?**

## 2

### Write and submit an application (Japanese or English)

- A case officer would be assigned to assist you in facilitating application procedure.**
- No fee is required for application.
- Application forms and guides are available on the website below:**

For return of the children :

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page22e\\_000337.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000337.html)

For Visitation / Contacts with the children:

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page22e\\_000338.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000338.html)

- Prepare supporting documents for application.**
- Submit to the Hague Convention Division by postal mail.**

Address :

**Hague Convention Division,  
Consular Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan 100-8919**

**The Hague Convention Division assigns a case officer to each applicant in order to assist you in seeking your children's return or visitation / contacts with your children.**

**3****Screening of your application  
at the Hague Convention Division**

- It takes 1 or 2 weeks.

**4****Decision on assistance or dismissal  
of your application**

- Once a decision to provide assistance is made, the following procedure would be started.  
(However it does not mean that your children's return or visitation / contacts with your children is guaranteed.)

**5****Translation of part of your application documents**

- No fee is required (subject to budget limitation).

**6****Your application is sent  
to the foreign central authority**

- The Hague Convention Division transfers your application to the central authority of the country where your child is living for screening process.**

- **The Hague Convention Division assists appropriate communication between the applicant and the foreign central authority during the following procedures (Procedures available may vary from country to country).**

- Court proceedings**

- \*Court proceedings may immediately start in some countries.

- Mediation/ADR (alternative dispute resolution)**

- \*If both parties agree, negotiation may be facilitated using Skype or other means with the attendance of third parties (such as a lawyer as fair and impartial mediators).

- Direct negotiation between the parties, etc.**



**Have your children been taken to  
a foreign country?**

**Have you been kept from seeing  
your children living overseas?**

**If you have any of these problems,  
please contact the Hague  
Convention Division.**

\*In case your child has been taken to Japan from abroad, you may also apply for our assistance. For more details, please visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

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## **Hague Convention Division**

**Consular Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**TEL 03-5501-8466**

**Weekdays from 9:00 to 17:00 (excluding 12:30 - 13:30)**

**Email: [hagueconventionjapan@mofa.go.jp](mailto:hagueconventionjapan@mofa.go.jp)**

**Website**

**[http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page22e\\_000249.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000249.html)**

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