



U.S. Laws regarding International Parental Child Abduction

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International Child Abductions Remedies Act (ICARA)

- 22 U.S.C. § 9001 et seq. (formerly 42 U.S.C. § 11601 et seq.)
- U.S. implementing legislation passed by Congress in 1988
- Implements the Hague Abduction Convention, which:
 - Discourages abduction
 - Requires prompt return to habitual residence if child is wrongfully removed or retained in foreign country (subject limited defenses)
 - Protects visitation/access rights
- Designates the U.S. Department of State as the Central Authority





International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act (IPKCA)

- 18 U.S.C. § 1204
- Whoever removes a child from the United States, or attempts to do so, or retains a child (who has been in the United States) outside the United States with intent to obstruct the lawful exercise of parental rights shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 3 years or both.





International Child Abduction and Return Act (ICAPRA)

- “The Sean and David Goldman Act”
- Passed by U.S. Congress in 2014
- Annual Report on International Child Abduction
- Tools for the U.S. Department of State to use in order to encourage Convention Compliance

