

MOST ABDUCTED CHILDREN ARE TAKEN BY SOMEONE THEY KNOW, LOVE & TRUST - THEIR PARENTS. THESE PARENTS ARE USUALLY INVOLVED IN ADVERSARIAL DIVORCES, VISITATION/CUSTODY BATTLES & CHILD SUPPORT DISPUTES.

## Parental Abduction: 10 Ways to Reduce the Risk

1. Try to stay out of court over parenting issues and use mediation. Parents are more likely to follow an agreement that they were involved in rather than a judge's order. Incorporate any mediated agreement into a court order signed by a judge.

2. If there are serious problems between you and your co-parent, you first must obtain legal, permanent or temporary custody of your child. If necessary, consider getting a restraining order, supervised visitation, and/or posting bond before visits.

3. Once you have custody, get a passport for your child. Notify the Passport Office that your child may not be taken out of the country without your written permission. Ask the Passport Office to mail the passport to you with a return receipt requested.

4. Keep the lines of communication open, even when it's difficult. Be non-confrontational. Involve your co-parent and share the decision making process. A coparent that feels involved is less likely to feel the need to turn to abduction.

5. If the co-parent threatens to abduct, have the threats witnessed or taped. Keep a log of events. This can help incorporate serious safeguards into custody and/or visitation orders.

6. Keep and maintain a list of current vital information about your child and the co-parent, including social security number, license number, license plate, credit information, job information, as well as contact information for the co-parent's friends and family.

7. If your child attends school, daycare, camp, or stays with a sitter, submit a certified copy of your custody order with a photo of the non-custodial parent to the appropriate person. Also explain in writing who is allowed to take the child from school.

8. Talk to your child about what to do in case of abduction. Teach them your full name, address and phone number. Show your child how to make long distance calls and call home collect. Let your child know that they have the right to contact you no matter who forbids it.

9. Do not tie parenting time to child support. This causes tension and encourages them to abduct and flee. Follow court orders or seek emergency court protection.

10. Know the profile of a potential child abductor; they can be impulsive, erratic, easily angered, hostile, vengeful or abusive. An abductor may also have skills which can support them while on the move, or have someone to support them financially. A potential abductor also has a poor record of employment and few business responsibilities.



PO Box 277, New Paltz NY 12561 Business Phone: 845-883-6060 FAX: 845-883-6614

Email: information@childfindofamerica.org Web Site: www.childfindofamerica.org

## PROGRAM LINES:

 Main Help Line:
 1-800-1-AM-LOST (1-800-426-5678)

 Parent Help:
 1-800-716-3468

 CAPSS:
 1-800-1-WAY-OUT (1-800-292-9688)

Keep Vital In	formation About '	Information To Keep In This
	NicknameSex	ChildFinder® DocuPak PHOTO OF YOUR CHILD. A quality brad- photo OF YOUR CHILD. A quality brad- photo of YOUR CHILD. A quality brad- photo of the photon for
ıtt	Social Security Number	PHOTO OF VOUR CHILD. A quanty and an important used for and-shoulder photo is an important used for shift, Updati your child's
e of Binh	RaciNationality	recovering your critic of
hmarks/Scars	Color Hair	MIRTH CERTIFICATE, Obtain from City/ Town Clerk where your child was born, or Town Clerk where your child in your State
ood TypeColor Eyes	CityStateZip	Town Clerk where your shild was bolls in from Burrau of Vital Statistics in your State (aspiral.
Idress.		SOCIAL SECURITY CARD. Keep a seeled birth certificate plan one other form
other's Name/Phone		Software provide some firms one contraction, also provide some firms of identification,
shar's Name/Phone		store to the
iliness (Asthma, Diabetes, Etc.)	Albergies (Food, Medicines)	LEGAL CUSTODY. If divorant or sepa- rated, keep a copy of your custody decree.
Medications		PASSPORT. Parents should instruct passport Office that the child may leave
School/Phone		Passor Office that the child may be Passorer Office that the child may be the United Stams ONLY with consent of the United Stams of a outsidy dispate exists, both parents. If a control office appropriately.
School/Phone Emergency Contact (Name/Relationsh	ip(Phone)	
Emergency Contact (venou		MEDICAL & DENTAL RECORDS. Know where your child's medical records are keps if you relecente, obtain copies and
		kopt. If you resolute,
Doctor (Name/Phone)		
Dentist (Name/Phone)		does not present your when a child is
a police/Phone	al police immediately. Prosent this <i>ChildFluderik Envelope</i> use is the disseministion of your child's photo and information r with Child Find of America, Inc., at 1-808-5-AM-LOST.	to law found. Fingerfrending pelice department.

Be Prepared: Send for your Free ChildFinder DocuPak today.

Bringing missing children home since 1980

(Bulk orders are available at \$.50 each.)