

THE IMPACT OF A PARENTAL ABDUCTION

Taken from family, home, and friends by a parent or a family member, children are thrust into a life of uncertainty and isolation.

This instantaneous loss of community can lead to psychological and social impacts including the loss of a sense of security, a compromised ability to trust oneself or others and a fear of abandonment.

Many of these children are neglected, traumatized, forced into living like fugitives, or plunged into poverty.

HELP IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

You are not alone. After you have contacted the police to report the disappearance of your child, call the Missing Children's Network to get the help, assistance and resources that you will need in order to recover your child.

Child Safety and Prevention

The Missing Children's Network provides safety and prevention resources for families and professionals focusing on abduction, exploitation and Internet safety.



missing children's
network
Keeping hope alive



THE FACT THAT A CHILD IS WITH A PARENT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THE CHILD IS SAFE.

Did you know that Parental Abduction is the most common form of child abduction in Canada?

Every year, hundreds of Canadian children are victims of parental abduction.

Parental Abduction:

- Is one of the most misunderstood forms of child abuse;
- Is a crime in every province in Canada;
- Can have a devastating impact on the child's psychological and social development;
- Has traumatic effects on the searching parent, left-behind siblings, grandparents and extended family, as well as friends.



Contact us for more information
The Missing Children's Network
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Toll Free: 1 888 692-4673
Fax: 514 843-8211
missingchildrensnetwork.ngo

Registered Charity # 10788 6863 RR0001

WHEN THE ABDUCTOR IS THE PARENT

HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND PREVENT A PARENTAL ABDUCTION



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WHAT PROMPTS A PARENT TO ABDUCT HIS CHILD

There are several motivating factors that may include:

- The need to punish one's spouse/ex-spouse;
- Refusal to accept a separation/divorce;
- The belief that the clauses of the custody order and visitation rights are unjust;
- Difficulty in adapting to the customs of a foreign country;
- The desire to pursue the role of sole parent;
- Cultural differences between the couple;
- Pressure from the family to return to the country of origin;
- Belief that the other parent is a danger to the child.

When is a parental abduction most likely to occur?

- During the exercise of visitation rights;
- While on a trip outside of the country with the child;
- Before or after a separation/divorce, especially once legal custody has been granted.

If you are the victim of a parental abduction, it is crucial to act fast.

Contact the police immediately and seek legal representation as soon as possible.



SIGNS OF A POSSIBLE PARENTAL ABDUCTION

A parental abduction is rarely a spontaneous and impulsive gesture by the parent, but rather a well-thought out plan that may include the following:

- Previous attempt to abduct;
- Unusual pressure to take the child on holiday back to the spouse's country of origin;
- Drastic and sudden change in the spouse's behaviour: exhibiting a more conciliatory attitude, unusual displays of affection, etc.;
- Recurrent and suspicious comments from the child: "I'm going to a new school", "I'm going to take a big plane for a special trip", etc.;
- Suddenly resigning from one's job or taking an unexpected leave of absence;
- Selling of property without looking for another place to stay;
- Liquidating of assets; selling furniture, appliances, car, etc.;
- Closing bank accounts;
- Applying for a passport;
- Sudden disappearance of the child's official documents (birth certificate, passport).

HOW TO PREVENT A PARENTAL ABDUCTION

Although family abduction cases cannot always be prevented, there are many safeguards that can be taken to minimize risks:

- Remit a copy of the custody agreement to all those responsible at the school, nursery or day-care centre your child attends and inform them of the identity of the person authorized to pick up your child at all times;
- Try to maintain cordial and harmonious relations with the other parent, your (ex) in-laws, as well as any friends in common;
- Respect the other parent's visitation rights;
- Maintain a dated diary to record any relevant information (visitation schedule, the description of the vehicle, licence plate, passengers in the car, etc.) and all interactions of your child with the other parent;
- Carry with you at all times current identification of your child.

Never ignore any threats of abduction or harm. Contact your local police immediately.

Learn what you can do to keep your child safe at missingchildrensnetwork.ngo



Founded in 1985, the **Missing Children's Network** is a leading and reputable non-profit organization in Quebec working relentlessly to recover missing children and protecting them from abduction, aggression and exploitation.

When a child goes missing, we can support you in the following ways:

- Liaise with law enforcement, social service agencies, the legal community, government and appropriate agencies;
- Provide specific support and referral services for your family during and following recovery;
- Provide assistance during the reunification process and once the child is back home;
- Liaise with the media as necessary;
- Connect you with other parents who are going through a similar ordeal or have successfully recovered their child.
- Protect the rights of families and missing children.

