



WHAT CAN I DO?

MY CHILD'S BEEN TAKEN TO A NON- HAGUE CONVENTION COUNTRY

The Hague Convention

The 1980 Hague Convention is a treaty that helps parents start court proceedings for their child to be returned to Australia.

Australia is a party to this Convention.

Not all countries are signatories to the 1980 Hague Convention.

For an up to date list of countries the enforce this treaty with Australia, you should look at the Attorney General's Department's (AGD) website.

What can I do?

If your child has been taken to a non-Hague Convention country, you may have other legal avenues available to you.

ISS Australia's Legal Service can provide you with legal advice specific to your circumstances

www.iss.org.au | 1300 657 843

The material in this publication is a general guide only. It is not legal advice.
Please seek legal advice about your situation.

Egypt & Lebanon

Australia has Bilateral Agreements in place between Egypt and Lebanon. If you successfully make an application through these Bilateral Agreements then this would allow for diplomatic negotiations to take place for access arrangements or the return of your child. Where possible, ISS Australia can prepare these documents for you free of charge.



Local parenting proceedings overseas

You may wish to speak to a family lawyer in the overseas country to discuss taking legal action in their courts.

Depending on the merits of your potential court action and your financial circumstances, financial assistance from the Australian Government may be available to you to contribute to the legal and practical costs for the return of your child from overseas.

For more information, you should look at the AGD's website.



Available support

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY MEDIATION

Sometimes, parenting matters can be resolved without conflict.

Agreement is more likely if parents use the services of an experienced registered Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (Mediator). ISS Australia offers an International Family Mediation Service which is provided by accredited mediators. A mediator is independent and neutral of all parties involved in the process and is experienced in cross-cultural and international family disputes.



SOCIAL WORK SUPPORT



ISS Australia's Social Work Service can also provide you with emotional and practical support as you go through this difficult time. The Social Work Service may be able to link parents with local network partners or contacts in the other country who can assist in providing support and a channel of communication between you and the other parent.