



# Child Abduction T.I.P.S. (Training, Information, Protocol & Strategy)

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MARCH 8, 2017

## UPCOMING EVENTS:



### Child Abduction Intervention and Resource Training

DATE: March 28-29, 2017  
PLACE: Fresno, CA  
TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Specially designed for Child Abuse & Abduction Programs, Child Protective Services, Law Enforcement, Mental Health, Non-Profit Organizations, Prosecutors & Investigators, Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Programs, Victim Witness, Visitation Monitors & School Personnel.

#### Topics include:

- California Child Safety AMBER Network
- How CPS Interfaces With Other Agencies
- Federal Agencies' Resources & Response to Child Abductions
- Recovery, Reunification & Reintegration
- Impacts & Interventions
- International Family Abduction
- Legal Issues
- Missing and Unidentified Persons
- Missing Children Law Enforcement Response & Resources
- Prosecutor Response & Resources
- Missing & Abducted Case Scenario
- Case Presentations
- The School's Response & Collaboration

This training is FREE OF CHARGE. Participants are responsible for travel, lodging, & all snack & meal expenses. LUNCH IS NOT PROVIDED.

Register at: [www.ChildAbductions.org](http://www.ChildAbductions.org)  
For questions, please contact Tiffany Anderson at [tiffany.anderson@cirinc.org](mailto:tiffany.anderson@cirinc.org) or call (803) 584-0525

#### **CONTINUING EDUCATION:**

If you are interested in Continuing Education, please apply & pay for credit at training. Cash, card, or check only please, payable to "CIR, Inc."

- POST, Plan IV – 12.8 Hour total, **no cost**, Provider #1214
- MCLE – 8 Hours total, \$45.00, Provider #15175



#### **MULTIPLE AGENCIES WORK TOGETHER TO RESOLVE INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION CASES**

By Elaine Tumonis, Deputy Attorney General

The Task Force's commitment to a multidisciplinary and multi-agency approach to resolving parental kidnapping cases is particularly helpful when a child has been abducted internationally. These cases can often be handled under a treaty called the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction if the country from or to which the child was wrongfully removed or retained, in violation of the left-behind parent's custody rights, is a U.S. treaty partner. At a minimum, the U.S. Department of State, the California Attorney General's Office, and the local District Attorney's Office will be involved in the case. And sometimes, many more agencies must become involved. Earlier this year, Syrian parents living in Canada left their children with a babysitter and went to Syria to visit family.

There, the father tried to kill the mother, stole her passport, cell phone, and identification papers, returned to Canada without her, and abducted their children to the United States. He was reportedly charged, in Syria, with attempted murder; in Canada, he was charged with an assault and parental kidnapping. Mother returned to Canada, and in late March 2016, she applied for return of the children to Canada under the Hague Convention. Simultaneously, federal and Canadian authorities explored obtaining a provisional arrest warrant for the father. The children were located in a hotel and picked up by child protective services. Dependency court and Hague proceedings ensued, and in early April 2016, the children were ordered to return to Canada accompanied by a social worker, as mother was unable to travel to the U.S. When all was said and done, at least nine agencies had participated in the case in some way: California's Attorney General's Office, Los Angeles County's District Attorney's Office, Department of Children & Family Services, and County Counsel's Offices, the U.S. DOJ, State Department, and FBI; and Canada's federal government and Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Building bridges with our counterparts in other agencies is extraordinarily helpful to resolving difficult cases like this one.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.childabductions.org/international.html>



### **THE EMOTIONAL AFTERMATH OF PARENTAL ABDUCTION & WHERE TO GET HELP**

By Cari Teran, MFT

While the impact of parental abduction will differ in every child due to variations in circumstance, duration, and direct experience, many children recovered from abduction come home with fear, anger and confusion. Add to that any possible precursor stressors (domestic violence, separation, divorce, child abuse, neglect, loss of a job or housing and financial insecurities), and it's a recipe for emotional and behavioral challenges. Other factors to take into consideration are the child's temperament, resiliency, and support system. Often children experience some of the following issues after recovery:

- Regressive behaviors (return to thumb sucking or toileting issues and a decrease in language skills in younger children; an increase in needing assistance with things they've previously mastered)

- A need for control expressed through making demands, seeming inflexible or rigid, defiance, and tantrums if they don't get their way
- An increase in distress or anxiety when separating from parent/caregiver
- Confusion about identity and a strong need to rebel against the left behind parent, particularly in teens
- Alignment with the abducting parent and possible attempts to contact them
- Physical symptoms (stomach aches, change in appetite, sleep disruptions)
- Depression, withdrawal from others, sadness, loss of pleasure in activities, food hoarding

Working through the emotional, and sometimes physical, damage from abduction takes time, patience and qualified mental health professionals.

If you notice any of the above issues and/or believe a child may be in need of counseling, please contact the following:

- California Victim Compensation Board  
<http://www.vcgcb.ca.gov/victims/>
- Your local county District Attorney's Child Abduction Unit
- Your local county Department of Mental Health (for Medi-Cal)
- Child/family private health insurance carrier



#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

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