



CALIFORNIA
Child Abduction
 TASK FORCE

Risk Factors and Preventative Intervention for Custody Violations and Parental Abduction

Table 1 of 2

Risk Profile	Prior Threat or Actual Abduction	Suspicious – Distrustful with Social Support	Paranoid Delusional
<p>Behavioral Indicators</p> <p>COMMON TO ALL PROFILES:</p> <p>(1) Parent dismisses value of parent for child; (2) Child is very young or vulnerable to influence, and (3) family and social support is usually provided to abductor</p>	<p>Spoken threats to take the child, history of hiding child, refusing visits, snatching child back and forth.</p> <p>Parent has no financial or emotional ties to the area.</p> <p>Resources to survive in hiding or help from others to do so; has liquidated assets, maximum withdrawal of credit.</p>	<p>Parent has fixed belief that child is abused, molested, neglected, and that authorities will not take charges seriously and dismiss it as unsubstantiated. Others support parent and concur.</p> <p>Repetitive allegations, increasing hostility and distrust between parents.</p>	<p>Flagrantly paranoid, irrational behavior and allegations; history of hospitalizations for mental illness; delusions of mind control.</p> <p>Bizarre forms of domestic violence, boundary confusion between parent and child.</p> <p>Murder/suicide threats</p>
<p>Flagrantly paranoid, irrational behavior and allegations; history of hospitalizations for mental illness; delusions of mind control.</p> <p>Bizarre forms of domestic violence, boundary confusion between parent and child.</p> <p>Murder/suicide threats</p>	<p>Obtain certified copy of custody/visitation order, explicit access and jurisdiction specified.</p> <p>Obtain restraining order prohibiting leaving area without permission.</p> <p>Flag passports, school, medical, birth records.</p> <p>Supervise visits or electronic surveillance.</p> <p>Post Bonds.</p> <p>Educate older children, provide family counseling and mediation of impasse.</p>	<p>Undertake a timely, thorough investigation of allegations; inform concerned social network; coordinate all professionals involved to share perspectives and conclusions.</p> <p>Temporary supervised visits to protect abused child or falsely accused parent. If investigation is inconclusive, appoint co-parenting counselor-arbitrator to provide counseling, rebuild trust and monitor situation.</p> <p>Therapy for child.</p>	<p>Assess lethality!</p> <p>Emergency ex parte hearing for psychiatric screening; appoint legal representation for child and deluded parent.</p> <p>Suspend visits or supervise with high security. Temporary custody to other parent or to third party. Adult psychiatric treatment and child therapy.</p>

Table 2 of 2

Risk Profile	Prior Threat or Actual Abduction	Suspicious – Distrustful with Social Support	Paranoid Delusional
<p>Behavioral Indicators</p> <p>COMMON TO ALL PROFILES:</p> <p>(1) Parent dismisses value of parent for child; (2) child is very young or vulnerable to influence, and (3) family and social support is usually provided to abductor.</p>	<p>Multiple arrests and convictions; blatant contempt of court orders.</p> <p>Stalking, threats of domestic violence, manipulation and control; vexatious litigation.</p> <p>Relationships are self-serving, exploitative, self-aggrandizing.</p>	<p>See “Prior Threats or Actual Abduction.” Dissolution of mixed cultural marriage; idealizes own family, homeland and culture and depreciates American culture. Rescinds and dismisses child’s mixed heritage.</p> <p>Separation and divorce are severe loss/humiliation.</p> <p>Homeland offers more emotional/financial support. Acute time is at divorce. Especially high risk for non–Hague countries of origin.</p>	<p>Severe economic hardship, low education, never married.</p> <p>Ethnic minorities, language barriers and cultural beliefs regarding custody contrary to legal norms.</p> <p>Domestic violence victim; alienated from major social institutions.</p> <p>Has family/social support in another geographical area.</p>
<p>Interventions</p> <p>General Principle:</p> <p>More restrictive measures curtailing parents’ freedoms are warranted where (1) the risks for abduction are greater; (2) the obstacles to the recovery of the child are more substantial, and (3) the potential harm to the child is more extensive</p>	<p>Obtain appropriate restraining orders.</p> <p>Engage decisive use of court authority; explicit court orders, rapid sanctions for contempt, fines/jail.</p> <p>Suspend or supervise access and resume unsupervised visits contingent on conforming behavior.</p>	<p>See “Prior Threats or Actual Abduction”</p> <p>Post bonds to ensure return from visiting homeland; hold passport and monitor airlines.</p> <p>Obtain mirror custody orders with county of origin; inform kin of consequences of aiding custody violation.</p> <p>Culturally sensitive divorce counseling, including child’s need for both parents and both cultural identities. Provide emotional/financial support.</p>	<p>Provide access to legal services, pro se clinics and translation assistance. Inform, refer and advocate regarding community services.</p> <p>Provide culturally sensitive divorce and custody counseling/mediation.</p> <p>Educate parent and social network regarding abduction laws</p>

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