

WHAT IS PARENTAL ABDUCTION? WHAT TO DO IF IT HAPPENS?

The situation today



2,2 MILLION
marriages annually in the EU



1 IN 12
involve partners from
different countries



130,000
international couples file
for divorce annually



CHILDREN
are often involved



1,161
cases of parental abductions
are reported annually



What is parental abduction?

Children taken to or kept in a country other than that of their normal residence by one parent against the will of the other

THE SOLUTION? CROSS-BORDER FAMILY MEDIATION

Court proceedings are often used to resolve cross-border family conflicts but they are often slow and expensive. Cross-border family mediation can prevent and resolve family conflict including parental abduction.

What is mediation?

Trained and qualified mediators help find a solution which is negotiated by both parents and reflects the specific situation of the family, for the benefit of the children.



75%
of the cases are solved by a full (48%)
or partial (27%) mediation agreement

60%

cheaper than court proceedings

7x

faster compared to court proceedings
(43 days instead of 18 months)

How to get help?



**Cross-Border
Family
Mediators**

A network of 178 bi-cultural family mediators from 37 countries to prevent, support and protect children from harm related to cross-border family disputes

Call the hotline for missing children

☎ 116 000

Find a mediator near you

<http://crossbordermediator.eu>

Missing Children Europe is the federation coordinating efforts to tackle the issue of child disappearances in Europe. Missing Children Europe represents 31 grassroots organisations operating in 27 countries that directly work with missing children and their families. The role played by Missing Children Europe and its member organisations is particularly important since a child is reported missing every 2 minutes in the EU. Furthermore, 18-25% of the cases dealt with by national organisations are cross-border by nature, reinforcing the need of a European-focused body like Missing Children Europe. More info at missingchildreneurope.eu.

Missing Children Europe coordinates the network of Cross-Border Family Mediators, which deals directly with parental abduction cases. Every year, Missing Children Europe, with the support of national associations and networks of mediators, launches various initiatives for Mediation Week which aims to promote mediation to all stakeholders concerned, including parents, mediators and professionals such as lawyers.

