

## HOTLINES

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children  
(NCMEC) ----- 1 (800) THE LOST  
Child Protective Services (CPS) ----- 558-2650

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Bay Area Legal Aid ----- 982-1300  
Nihonmachi Legal Outreach ----- 567-6255  
La Raza Centro Legal ----- 575-3500  
Bar Association ----- 982-1600  
Asian Law Caucus ----- 896-1701  
Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic --- 982-4243

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERVENTION

Victim/Witness Assistance Program ---- 553-9044  
Adult Probation Department ----- 553-1706  
SF Police Non-Emergency ----- 553-0123



San Francisco District Attorney's Office  
Child Abduction Recovery Unit

850 Bryant Street, Room 301  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Tel: (415) 551-9553 Hotline  
Fax: (415) 553-1410

# CHILD ABDUCTION RECOVERY UNIT



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The San Francisco District Attorney's Child Abduction Unit (CARU) is mandated by the State of California to enforce child custody and visitation orders and to locate and return children who have been taken or detained, in violation of another person's custody rights. It is the District Attorney's goal to help ensure peaceful enforcement of court orders so that children can enjoy a healthy relationship with both parents.

### WHAT IS CHILD ABDUCTION?

Child abduction involves the taking, retention or concealment of a child by a parent or other family member in violation of custody or visitation rights (*California Penal Code § 278.5*).

### CHILD ABDUCTION IS A CRIME.

It is a crime to intentionally take, entice away, keep, withhold or conceal a child from any person or agency with the right of custody or visitation (*California Penal code § 278.5*) If you have been a victim of this crime, you can call the **Child Abduction Recovery Unit (CARU)** at **(415)551-9553**. If abduction is threatened, notify the police department or CARU who will advise the parent that taking the child is a crime.

### HOW CAN CARU PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN CHILD ABDUCTION CASES?

In most cases, CARU will attempt to resolve the custody and visitation issues without litigation. Assist in locating, recovering, and returning the child(ren) to the person with the right of custody. The Child Abduction Unit will utilize all legal means to locate and return a child taken out of the United States including federal treaties, Federal bureau of Investigations, and the services of the State Department.

### WHAT CAN I DO IF MY CHILD IS TAKEN?

1. If your child is abducted, immediately file a Missing Person's Report at your nearest police station.

*Bring with you to the station a copy of your last custody/visitation order, if you have one. Also, bring as much information and a photo of the abducting parent and missing child. Have the report forwarded to CARU.*

2. If you do not have a custody or visitation order

If there are no court orders in effect, both parents have equal rights to custody of a child. If your child has been abducted, CARU can begin an investigation to locate the child regardless of whether a court order was in existence at the time of the abduction.

In order to obtain a Custody Order, you should initiate a Family Law Court proceeding with the San Francisco Superior Court Clerk's Office Family Law Division located on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor at 400 McAllister Street, Room 509 or visit [www.sfsuperiorcourt.org](http://www.sfsuperiorcourt.org) for more information. Depending on your ability to pay, you can obtain a Fee Waiver for filings.

### WHAT TO FILE

#### • Request For Order

This method allows you to go to court whether or not there is an existing order. You can request custody, visitation, injunctive orders, child support and/or modify orders.

#### • A Complaint to Establish Parental Relationship

This procedure can be filed by either party to allow a father to be legally acknowledged. This avenue allows determinations concerning restraining orders, visitation, and child support.

#### 3. If you already have an existing court order

• If your child is abducted, immediately file a Missing Person's Report at your nearest police station. Bring with you to the station a copy of your latest custody/visitation order, if you have one. Also, bring as much information and a photo of the abducting parent and missing child. Have the police report forwarded to CARU.

• Provide a complete copy of the most current court order with the police and CARU; and

• if you have an attorney, please provide CARU with your attorney's name, address, and telephone number.

### Domestic Violence

If you are a victim of Domestic Violence, you can make a police report and request the police department to issue an Emergency Protective Order (EPO). This will give you some protection while you are obtaining an order.