

HOW TO OBTAIN A CUSTODY ORDER:

- Consult with a private attorney.
- Obtain assistance at the Alameda County Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office, located at 1225 Fallon Street, Room 240, Oakland, CA 94612.
- Visit the Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Court's Self-Help website at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp.

OTHER RESOURCES:

FAMILY COURT SERVICES:

OAKLAND - (510) 891-6030
HAYWARD - (510) 690-2500
PLEASANTON - (925) 227-6700 x7

FAMILY LAW FACILITATOR:

OAKLAND - (510) 891-6030
HAYWARD - (510) 690-2504

FAMILY LAW UNIT:

OAKLAND - (510) 891-6028
HAYWARD - (510) 690-2702

ALAMEDA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE: 302-2222 x3

ALAMEDA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



THOMAS J. ORLOFF
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

***CHILD
ABDUCTION
UNIT***



Alameda County
District Attorney's Office
1225 Fallon Street, Room 900
Oakland, CA. 94612

**ALAMEDA COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
CHILD ABDUCTION UNIT**

The Child Abduction Unit of the Alameda County District Attorney's Office investigates child abduction, and helps enforce custody or visitation rights when a child has been taken, enticed away, kept, withheld or concealed in violation of criminal statutes or court orders. The Child Abduction Unit may enforce custody orders from any State or foreign country.

ARE YOU A VICTIM OF CHILD ABDUCTION?

If you are a parent or guardian with a right to custody or visitation whose child has been taken or withheld, you might be a victim of child abduction.

- A right to custody may exist with or without a court order. Generally, the biological mother of a child has a right to custody. The biological father has a right to custody *if* he is/was married to the child's mother, lives with the mother and child, signed a voluntary declaration of paternity, or has obtained court orders giving him custody rights. Non-relatives who have obtained legal guardianship of a child also have a right to custody.

- A right to visitation may only be based on a court order.
- A man's name on a birth certificate or payment of child support alone does not create a right to custody or visitation.

HOW CAN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HELP YOU?

The District Attorney's Child Abduction Unit will investigate cases of child abduction, recover abducted children, and enforce custody and visitation orders. We may advise you on how to file documents and obtain court orders. The Child Abduction Unit may also prosecute the abducting party.

We may pursue the resolution of your case, at our discretion, through the civil court, the criminal court, or both courts.

Because our concern is to protect both custodial and visitation rights, and the children involved, we may decline to handle cases involving minor custody or visitation disputes. In such cases we might suggest alternative solutions.

Please note that the District Attorney's Office can only enter your case if there is an underlying criminal violation. We represent the people of the State of

California, not the individual parent, guardian or child.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF CHILD ABDUCTION?

If you are a resident of Alameda County, contact the Child Abduction Unit at (510) 267-8854 for more information and to schedule an appointment to discuss your case.

If you are a resident of any other county, contact the District Attorney's Office in the county where you reside.

You should also file a report with the police department in the city where you live.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

If you are concealing your child from the other parent because of domestic violence, you must file a "Good Cause Report" with the District Attorney's Office Child Abduction Unit, within ten days of fleeing your home. This report lets the authorities know that you are fleeing domestic violence and are not merely abducting your children. You may make the "Good Cause Report" by calling (510) 267-8854. You must also commence custody proceedings, and keep the District Attorney's Office advised of your address.