

**2025 Edition**

# Parental Kidnapping and Custodial Interference

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **Table of Contents**

Introduction .....	3
Section 1: Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction ...	4
Table 1: Requirements of the Hague Convention .....	21
Table 2: Affirmative Defenses to International Parental Kidnapping .....	22
Section 2: Federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA) .....	23
Section 3: Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act .....	29
Table 3: Enforcement under UCCJEA.....	41
Section 4: Family Violence and Parental Kidnapping .....	42
Section 5: Custodial Interference .....	50
Table 4: Tort of Custodial Interference or Child Abduction - Key Connecticut Cases.....	57
Table 5: Criminal Custodial Interference.....	58
Section 6: Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) .....	59

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References to online legal research databases refer to in-library use of these databases. Remote access is not available.

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<https://www.jud.ct.gov/policies.htm>

# Introduction

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- **"The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction** generally requires courts in the United States to order children returned to their countries of habitual residence, if the courts find that the children have been wrongfully removed to or retained in the United States." [Chafin v. Chafin](#), 568 U.S. 165, 168, 133 S. Ct. 1017, 1021, 185 L. Ed. 2d 1, 8 (2013).
- **International parental kidnapping** (18 USC Part I – Crimes). "Whoever removes a child from the United States, or attempts to do so, or retains a child (who has been in the United States) outside the United States with intent to obstruct the lawful exercise of parental rights shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 3 years or both." [18 U.S.C. § 1204\(a\)](#).
- "Congress enacted the **Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA)**, 28 U.S.C. § 1738A, to avoid jurisdictional competition and conflict in matters of child custody and visitation and to promote cooperation between state courts. See Pub. L. No. 96-611, 94 Stat. 3569, § 7 (c)." [Scott v. Somers](#), 97 Conn. App. 46, 47, 903 A.2d 663 (2006).
- **"The purposes of the UCCJEA** are to avoid jurisdictional competition and conflict with courts of other states in matters of child custody; promote cooperation with the courts of other states; discourage continuing controversies over child custody; deter abductions; avoid re-litigation of custody decisions; and to facilitate the enforcement of custody decrees of other states. . . . The UCCJEA addresses inter-jurisdictional issues related to child custody and visitation." [In re Iliana M.](#), 134 Conn. App. 382, 390, 38 A.3d 130 (2012).
- **Custodial interference in the second degree: Class A misdemeanor.** "(a) A person is guilty of custodial interference in the second degree when: (1) Being a relative of a child who is less than sixteen years old and intending to hold such child permanently or for a protracted period and knowing that he has no legal right to do so, he takes or entices such child from his lawful custodian; (2) knowing that he has no legal right to do so, he takes or entices from lawful custody any incompetent person or any person entrusted by authority of law to the custody of another person or institution; or (3) knowing that he has no legal right to do so, he holds, keeps or otherwise refuses to return a child who is less than sixteen years old to such child's lawful custodian after a request by such custodian for the return of such child. (b) Custodial interference in the second degree is a class A misdemeanor." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [53a-98](#) (2025).
- **Custodial interference in the first degree: Class D felony.** "(a) A person is guilty of custodial interference in the first degree when he commits custodial interference in the second degree as provided in section 53a-98: (1) Under circumstances which expose the child or person taken or enticed from lawful custody or the child held after a request by the lawful custodian for his return to a risk that his safety will be endangered or his health materially impaired; or (2) by taking, enticing or detaining the child or person out of this state." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [53a-97](#) (2025).

# Section 1: Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to parental child abduction to and from the United States, with specific emphasis on Connecticut courts.

## **SEE ALSO:**

- [Section 4: Family Violence and Parental Kidnapping](#)

## **DEFINITIONS:**

- [Avendano v. Smith](#), 806 F. Supp. 2d 1149, 1163-1164 (D.N.M. 2011). "The Hague Convention 'seeks to deter parents who are dissatisfied with current custodial arrangements from abducting their children and seeking a more favorable custodial ruling in another country.' [Navani v. Shahani](#), 496 F.3d 1121, 1124 (10th Cir. 2007) (citing [Shealy v. Shealy](#), 295 F.3d 1117, 1121 (10th Cir. 2002)). The Hague Convention 'creates an international legal mechanism requiring contracting states to promptly return children who have been wrongfully removed to, or wrongfully retained in, their jurisdiction, without deciding anew the issue of custody.' [Navani v. Shahani](#), 496 F.3d at 1124 (citing [de Silva v. Pitts](#), 481 F.3d 1279, 1282 (10th Cir. 2007)). The International Child Abduction Remedies Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11601 through 11610 ("ICARA"), implements the Hague Convention, and grants federal and state courts 'concurrent original jurisdiction of actions arising under the Convention.' 42 U.S.C. § 11603(a)."

- [Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction](#)

Article 13: "Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding Article, the judicial or administrative authority of the requested State is not bound to order the return of the child if the person, institution or other body which opposes its return establishes that —

a) the person, institution or other body having the care of the person of the child was not actually exercising the custody rights at the time of removal or retention, or had consented to or subsequently acquiesced in the removal or retention; or

b) there is a grave risk that his or her return would expose the child to physical or psychological harm or otherwise place the child in an intolerable situation.

The judicial or administrative authority may also refuse to order the return of the child if it finds that the child objects to being returned and has attained an age and degree of maturity at which it is appropriate to take account of its views.

In considering the circumstances referred to in this Article, the judicial and administrative authorities shall take into

account the information relating to the social background of the child provided by the Central Authority or other competent authority of the child's habitual residence."

- **Habitual residence:** "To determine the habitual residence, the court must focus on the child, not the parents, and examine past experience, not future intentions." [Friedrich v. Friedrich](#), 983 F.2d 1396, 1401 (6th Cir. 1993).
- **Comity:** "...judgments of courts of foreign countries are recognized in the United States because of comity due to the courts and judgments of one nation to another. Such recognition is granted to foreign judgments with due regard to international duty and convenience, on the one hand, and to rights of citizens of the United States and others under the protection of its laws, on the other hand." [Litvaitis v. Litvaitis](#), 162 Conn. 540, 544, 295 A.2d 519 (1972).
- **Full Faith and Credit:** "Full faith and credit shall be accorded by the courts of the States and the courts of the United States to the judgment of any other such court ordering or denying the return of a child, pursuant to the Convention, in an action brought under this chapter." [22 U.S.C. § 9003](#)(g).

#### **STATUTES AND U.S. CODE**

You can visit your local law library, [search the most recent U.S. Code](#) on the U.S. Code website or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are accessing the most up-to-date laws.

- Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, 51 Fed. Reg. 10494 (March 26, 1986). [*Reprinted in* [Turner v. Frowein](#), 253 Conn. 312, 351, n.1, 752 A.2d 955 (2000)].
- International Child Abduction Remedies Act, Chapter 97, P.L.100-300, [22 U.S.C. §§ 9001-9011](#). [*Formerly 42 U.S.C. § 11601 et seq.*]
- **Enforcement of foreign child custody order re return of child under Hague Convention.** "A court of this state shall enforce a foreign child custody determination or an order of a federal court or another state court for return of a child under The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction made under factual circumstances in substantial conformity with the jurisdictional standards of this chapter, including reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard to all affected persons, as a child custody determination of another state under sections 46b-115u to 46b-115gg, inclusive, unless such determination was rendered under child custody law which violates fundamental principles of human rights or unless such determination is repugnant to the public policy of this state." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-115jj](#) (2025).

#### **LEGISLATIVE:**

- 1988 U.S.C.C.A.N. vol. 4, pp. 386-403. *Excerpts from H. Report # 100-525 including "section-by section analysis of*

*the Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute” (p. 392)*

### **REGULATIONS:**

You search the most recent C.F.R. on the [e-CFR website](#) to confirm that you are accessing the most up-to-date regulations.

- International Child Abduction, [22 C.F.R. §§ 94.1 - 94.8](#) (2025).
  - § 94.5. Application
  - § 94.6. Procedures for children abducted to the United States
  - § 94.7. Procedures for children abducted from the United States

### **CASE LAW:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

### **U.S. Supreme Court and 2nd Circuit Cases**

- [Golan v. Saada](#), 596 US --, 142 S. Ct. 1880, 1887–88, 213 L. Ed. 2d 203 (2022). “Under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, Mar. 26, 1986, T. I. A. S. No. 11670, S. Treaty Doc. No. 99–11 (Treaty Doc.), if a court finds that a child was wrongfully removed from the child's country of habitual residence, the court ordinarily must order the child's return. There are, however, exceptions to that rule. As relevant here, a court is not bound to order a child's return if it finds that return would put the child at a grave risk of physical or psychological harm. In such a circumstance, a court has discretion to determine whether to deny return.

In exercising this discretion, courts often consider whether any ‘ameliorative measures,’ undertaken either ‘by the parents’ or ‘by the authorities of the state having jurisdiction over the question of custody,’ could ‘reduce whatever risk might otherwise be associated with a child's repatriation.’ *Blondin v. Dubois*, 189 F.3d 240, 248 (C.A.2 1999) (Blondin I). The Second Circuit has made such consideration a requirement, mandating that district courts independently ‘examine the full range of options that might make possible the safe return of a child’ before denying return due to grave risk, even if the party petitioning for the child's return has not identified or argued for imposition of ameliorative measures. *Blondin v. Dubois*, 238 F.3d 153, 163, n. 11 (C.A.2 2001) (Blondin II).

The Second Circuit's categorical requirement to consider all ameliorative measures is inconsistent with the text and other express requirements of the Hague Convention.”

- [Monasky v. Taglieri](#), 589 US 68, 76, 140 S.Ct. 719, 206 L.Ed.2d 9 (2020). “First of the questions presented: Could Italy qualify as A.M.T.'s ‘habitual residence’ in the absence of an actual agreement by her parents to raise her there? The second question: Should the Court of Appeals have reviewed the District Court's habitual-residence determination independently rather than deferentially? In accord with decisions of the courts of other countries party to the

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Convention, we hold that a child's habitual residence depends on the totality of the circumstances specific to the case. An actual agreement between the parents is not necessary to establish an infant's habitual residence. We further hold that a first-instance habitual-residence determination is subject to deferential appellate review for clear error." (p. 723)

"The Convention's return requirement is a 'provisional' remedy that fixes the forum for custody proceedings. Silberman, *Interpreting the Hague Abduction Convention: In Search of a Global Jurisprudence*, 38 U. C. D. L. Rev. 1049, 1054 (2005). Upon the child's return, the custody adjudication will proceed in that forum. . . To avoid delaying the custody proceeding, the Convention instructs contracting states to 'use the most expeditious procedures available' to return the child to her habitual residence. Art. 2, Treaty Doc., at 7. See also Art. 11, id., at 9 (prescribing six weeks as normal time for return-order decisions)." (pp. 723-724)

"The habitual-residence determination thus presents a task for factfinding courts, not appellate courts, and should be judged on appeal by a clear-error review standard deferential to the factfinding court. . . . Clear-error review has a particular virtue in Hague Convention cases. As a deferential standard of review, clear-error review speeds up appeals and thus serves the Convention's premium on expedition. See Arts. 2, 11, Treaty Doc., at 7, 9. Notably, courts of our treaty partners review first-instance habitual-residence determinations deferentially." (p. 730)

"Although agreeing with the manner in which the Court has resolved the two questions presented, the United States, as an *amicus curiae* supporting neither party, suggests remanding to the Court of Appeals rather than affirming that court's judgment. Brief for United States as *Amicus Curiae* 28. Ordinarily, we might take that course, giving the lower courts an opportunity to apply the governing totality-of-the circumstances standard in the first instance.

Under the circumstances of this case, however, we decline to disturb the judgment below. . . . Nothing in the record suggests that the District Court would appraise the facts differently on remand.

A remand would consume time when swift resolution is the Convention's objective. . . . Given the exhaustive record before the District Court, the absence of any reason to anticipate that the District Court's judgment would change on a remand that neither party seeks, and the protraction of proceedings thus far, final judgment on A.M.T.'s return is in order." (p. 731)

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- [Marks v. Hochhauser](#), 876 F.3d 416 (2nd Cir. 2017).  
"Accordingly, we conclude that the Convention contemplates that 'retention' occurs on a fixed date. Here, that date was October 7, 2015, when Hochhauser advised Marks that she would not be returning with the Children to Thailand. We therefore agree with the district court's conclusion that any wrongful retention occurred on October 7, 2015. We now turn to the question of when the Convention became binding between the United States and Thailand, as the Convention applies only to wrongful retentions occurring after the Convention's 'entry into force in those States.' Convention, art. 35." (p. 422)

"Thus, because the Convention did not enter into force between the United States and Thailand until April 1, 2016, after the allegedly wrongful retention of the Children in New York on October 7, 2015, the Convention does not apply to Marks's claim and the district court did not err in dismissing his petition." (p. 424)

- [Tann v. Bennett](#), 807 F.3d 51, 52-53 (2nd Cir. 2015).  
"Indeed, one of the primary purposes of the Hague Convention was to prevent situations where 'a family member would remove a child to jurisdictions more favorable to [his or her] custody claims in order to obtain a right of custody from the authorities of the country to which the child ha[d] been taken.'" [Mota v. Castillo](#), 692 F.3d 108, 112 (2d Cir.2012) (quoting [Gitter](#), 396 F.3d at 129)."
- [Lozano v. Montoya Alvarez](#), 572 U.S. 1, 5, 134 S. Ct. 1224, 1229, 188 L. Ed. 2d 200 (2014). "The return remedy is not absolute. Article 13 excuses return where, for example, the left-behind parent was not 'actually exercising' custody rights when the abducting parent removed the child, or where there is a 'grave risk' that return would 'place the child in an intolerable situation.' Hague Convention, Arts. 13(a)-(b), Treaty Doc., at 10. A state may also refuse to return the child if doing so would contravene 'fundamental principles ... relating to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.' Art. 20, *id.*, at 11.

This case concerns another exception to the return remedy. Article 12 of the Convention states the general rule that when a court receives a petition for return within one year after the child's wrongful removal, the court 'shall order the return of the child forthwith.' *Id.*, at 9. Article 12 further provides that the court,

'where the proceedings have been commenced after the expiration of the period of one year [from the date of the wrongful removal], shall also order the return of the child, unless it is demonstrated that the child is now settled in its new environment.' *Ibid.*



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Thus, at least in some cases, failure to file a petition for return within one year renders the return remedy unavailable.”

- [Chafin v. Chafin](#), 568 U.S. 165, 168, 133 S. Ct. 1017, 1021, 185 L. Ed. 2d 1, 8 (2013). “The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction generally requires courts in the United States to order children returned to their countries of habitual residence, if the courts find that the children have been wrongfully removed to or retained in the United States. The question is whether, after a child is returned pursuant to such an order, any appeal of the order is moot.”
- [Souratgar v. Lee](#), 720 F.3d 96, 102 (2nd Cir. 2013). “The removal of a child under the Convention is deemed ‘wrongful’ when ‘it is in breach of rights of custody attributed to a person . . . under the law of the State in which the child was habitually resident immediately before the removal.’ [Abbott](#), 130 S.Ct. at 1989 (quotation marks omitted). Under the Convention, when a parent wrongfully removes a child from one contracting state which is the child’s country of habitual residence to another contracting state, the other parent may initiate a proceeding to repatriate the child to the first state. In the United States, the petitioning party bears the burden of proving that the child was wrongfully removed. 42 U.S.C. § 11603(e)(1)(A).”
- [Abbott v. Abbott](#), 560 U.S. 1, 22, 130 S. Ct. 1983, 176 L. Ed. 2d 789 (2010). “While a parent possessing a *ne exeat* right has a right of custody and may seek a return remedy, a return order is not automatic. Return is not required if the abducting parent can establish that a Convention exception applies. One exception states return of the child is not required when ‘there is a grave risk that his or her return would expose the child to physical or psychological harm or otherwise place the child in an intolerable situation.’ Art. 13(b), Treaty Doc., at 10. If, for example, Ms. Abbott could demonstrate that returning to Chile would put her own safety at grave risk, the court could consider whether this is sufficient to show that the child too would suffer ‘psychological harm’ or be placed ‘in an intolerable situation.’ See, e.g., [Baran v. Beaty](#), 526 F.3d 1340, 1352–1353 (C.A.11 2008); [Walsh v. Walsh](#), 221 F.3d 204, 220–221 (C.A.1 2000). The Convention also allows courts to decline to order removal if the child objects, if the child has reached a sufficient ‘age and degree of maturity at which it is appropriate to take account of its views.’ Art. 13(b), Treaty Doc., at 10. ”

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## **Connecticut Supreme and Appellate Court Decisions**

- [Nietupski v. Del Castillo](#), 196 Conn. App. 31, 42-43, 228 A.3d 1053 (2020). "The plaintiff also challenges the propriety of the court's order permitting international travel. At trial, the plaintiff claimed that travel to Peru is unsafe and that, if Matthew visited that South American country with the defendant, there was a risk they would not return to the United States. He renews those claims on appeal. . . . The plaintiff presented no evidence at trial indicating that the defendant harbored any intent to remain in Peru with Matthew.

In her testimony, the guardian ad litem stated that she was 'in support of Matthew being able to travel internationally.' She also testified that there currently were 'no travel advisories' for Peru and emphasized that Peru, like the United States, is a signatory to the Hague Convention, which she considered 'a protection against [the defendant] just moving to Peru and staying there.'

That evidence supports the court's findings that the defendant wanted to take Matthew to Peru 'to meet her extended family and to allow him to immerse himself in her culture.' The court credited the recommendation of the guardian ad litem, who was in favor of permitting Matthew to travel internationally with his parents. The court further found that Peru's status as a signatory to the Hague Convention provided the plaintiff with an avenue of redress in the event that the defendant refused to return to the United States.

Travel orders involving minor children rest in the sound discretion of the trial court. See [Stancuna v. Stancuna](#), 135 Conn. App. 349, 354-57, 41 A.3d 1156 (2012)."

- [Turner v. Frowein](#), 253 Conn. 312, 337, 752 A.2d 955 (2000). "As stated previously, a trial court is authorized under article 13b to deny a petition for the child's return upon a showing, by clear and convincing evidence, that 'there is a grave risk that his or her return would expose the child to physical or psychological harm or otherwise place the child in an intolerable situation.' Our task, therefore, is to determine whether a finding that the child would be subject to a grave risk of harm if returned to the petitioning parent is, without more, sufficient to justify a trial court's decision to decline to order the child's return to his or her country of habitual residence. In doing so, we are mindful of the overarching conviction that inheres in the Hague Convention itself, that is, in adjudicating matters under the Hague Convention, 'the interests of the child are stated to be the guiding criterion....' E. Perez-Vera, Explanatory Report: Hague Conference on Private International Law, in 3 Acts and

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Documents of the Fourteenth Session (1980) p. 432, para. 25 (Perez-Vera Report)."

### **Connecticut Trial Court Decisions**

- Reynolds v. Reynolds, Superior Court, Judicial District of Middlesex at Middletown, No. FA 15-5011170-S (Dec. 12, 2018) (2018 Conn. Super. LEXIS 5906). "The Hague Convention [on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, hereinafter the Hague Convention] targets international child abduction; it is not a jurisdictional-allocation or full faith and credit treaty. It does not provide a remedy for the recognition and enforcement of foreign custody orders or procedures for vindicating a wronged parent's custody rights more generally. Those rules are provided in the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act.' Redmond v. Redmond, 724 F.3d 729, 741 (7th Cir. 2013). In other words, the Convention does not supersede local law as to jurisdiction. Pursuant to Article 16 of the Convention, once raised, application of the Convention must be resolved first; other proceedings must be stayed. 22 U.S.C. §9001, (1988) and Convention, Article 16. The Hague Convention, implemented legislation known as the International Child Abduction Remedies Act (ICARA), which is set forth in 22 U.S.C. §§9001 through 9011, (1988). The court, therefore disagrees with the parties' position that the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) is inapplicable to this case and will discuss both the applicable UCCJEA statute on forum non conveniens, as well as the common-law doctrine."
- Wittman v. Wittman, Superior Court, Judicial District of Tolland at Rockville, No. FA 07-4006469 S (Feb. 21, 2007) (42 Conn. L. Rptr. 814) (2007 Conn. Super. LEXIS 595) (2007 WL 826536). "The applicant, Josef R. Wittmann initiated this action pursuant to the International Child Abduction Remedies Act, 42 U.S.C. 11601, commonly known as the Hague Convention (hereinafter ICARA)....The petitioner husband has alleged that the respondent wife wrongfully removed and retained the children in the United States and that he has formally requested their return to Germany. He alleges that he has custody rights under German law. . . . The question presented is whether the court should appoint an attorney or Guardian ad litem for the minor children . . . . For the foregoing reasons, attorney Matthew Potter is appointed as guardian ad litem for the minor children."
- Cruz v. Cruz, Superior Court, Judicial District of Danbury, No. CV 00-0341008-S (Dec. 27, 2002) (33 Conn. L Rptr. 594) (2002 Conn. Super. Lexis 4195) (2002 WL 31955020). "The issue presented in a Hague Convention case for return of a minor child are:

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1. Has there been a wrongful removal or retention?
2. Is the child under the age of 18 years?
3. Has the child been removed or retained from his or her habitual residence?
4. Was the removal or wrongful retention of the child committed in violation of the 'custody rights' of the 'left behind' parent?

The Court's analysis of this case has been limited to determining whether the minor child has been removed or retained from his 'habitual residence' in violation of the custody rights of the 'left behind' parent."

### **Cases from Other Jurisdictions**

- [Mendez v. May](#), 778 F.3d 337, 344 (1st Cir. 2015). "We begin and end with the question of C.F.F.M.'s habitual residence at the time of removal. *See Redmond v. Redmond*, 724 F.3d 729, 742 (7th Cir.2013) ('[E]very Hague Convention petition turns on the threshold determination of the child's habitual residence; all other Hague determinations flow from that decision.');
- [Tsai-Yi Yang v. Fu-Chiang Tsui](#), 499 F.3d 259, 271 (3d Cir.2007) (same)."
- [Ohlander v. Larson](#), 114 F.3d 1531, 1534 (10th Cir. 1997). "The Convention is meant to provide for a child's prompt return once it has been established the child has been 'wrongfully removed' to or retained in any affiliated state."
- [Mohsen v. Mohsen](#), 715 F. Supp. 1063, 1065 (D. Wyo. 1989). "In light of the fact the petitioner's daughter was last habitually resident in Bahrain, a noncontracting state, the court concludes that the petitioner has no rights under the Convention and is therefore not entitled to seek redress under its remedial provisions."

### **WEST KEY NUMBERS:**

- *Child Custody* #800-830. International Issues
  - 801. What law governs
  - 804. Habitual residence
  - 806. Grave risk
  - 808. Return of child
  - 809. Wrongful retention or removal
  - 810. Defenses

### **DIGESTS:**

- *ALR Digest*: Kidnapping
- *ALR Index*: Abduction and Kidnapping, Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
- *Connecticut Family Law Citations*
  - Chapter 4. Jurisdiction and Service
    - § 4.08. Full Faith and Credit and Foreign Judgments
  - Chapter 11. Child Custody and Visitation
    - § 11.09. Parental Abduction

**ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

Encyclopedias and ALRs are available in print at some law library locations and accessible online at all law library locations.

Online databases are available for in-library use. Remote access is not available.

- 1 *Am Jur 2d* Abduction and Kidnapping, Thomson West, 2016 (Also available on Westlaw).
  - III. Abduction or Kidnapping by Parent or Person In Loco Parentis
    - § 35. Parental rights, custody, and kidnapping
    - § 36. Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act
    - § 37. Federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act
    - § 38. International aspects
- 59 *Am Jur 2d* Parent and Child, Thomson West, 2023 (Also available on Westlaw).
  - VIII- Actions Involving Parent and Child
    - § 118. Action between parents for enticement or abduction of child: interference with custody
- 67A *CJS* Parent and Child, Thomson West, 2023 (Also available on Westlaw).
  - § 98. Jurisdiction and venue
  - § 103. International Child Abduction Remedies Act
  - § 374. Other offenses
- 51 *CJS* Kidnapping, Thomson West, 2021 (Also available on Westlaw).
  - § 32. Parental status as defense
  - § 33. Elements of custodial interference statutes; federal statutes
  - § 34. Liability of third party who assists in kidnaping child
- 71 *COA 2d* 649, *Cause of Action for Return of Child Under International Child Abduction Remedies Act*, 22 U.S.C.A. §§ 9001 to 9011, by James L. Buchwalter, Thomson West, 2016 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 140 *Am Jur Trials* 1, *Litigation for Return of Child Under International Child Abduction Remedies Act (ICARA)*, 22 U.S.C.A. §§ 9001 et seq. (formerly 42 U.S.C.A. §§ 11601 et seq.), by Catherine Palo, Thomson West, 2015 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 151 *POF3d* 177, *Proof Under Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction of One-Year Period for Parent to File for Return of Child Wrongfully Removed from Country*, 42 U.S.C.A. §§ 11601 et seq., by Catherine Palo, Thomson West, 2015.
- 181 *POF3d* 189, *Proof of "Habitual Residence" of Child Under Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*, by Cecily Fuhr, Thomson West, 2020 (Also available on Westlaw).

- 5 *A.L.R.Fed.3d* Art. 1, *Construction and Application of Consent and Acquiescence Defenses under Article 13 of Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*, by Kurtis A. Kemper, Thomson West, 2015 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 79 *A.L.R.Fed.2d* 481, *Construction and Application of Provision of Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Specifying One-Year Period for Parent to File for Return of Child Wrongfully Removed From or Retained Outside Country of Habitual Residence, as Implemented in International Child Abduction Remedies Act*, 42 U.S.C.A. § 11603(b), (f)(3), by Jill M. Marks, Thomson West, 2013 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 56 *A.L.R.Fed.2d* 163, Annotation, *Construction and Application of Grave Risk of Harm Exception in Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction as Implemented in International Child Abduction Remedies Act*, 42 U.S.C.A. § 11603(e)(2)(A), by Tracy Bateman Farrell, Thomson West, 2011 (Also available on Westlaw).

#### **TEXTS & TREATISES:**

Each of our law libraries own the Connecticut treatises cited. You can [contact](#) us or visit our [catalog](#) to determine which of our law libraries own the other treatises cited or to search for more treatises.

References to online databases refer to in-library use of these databases. Remote access is not available.

- 8 Connecticut Practice Series, *Family Law and Practice with Forms*, 3d ed., by Arnold H. Rutkin, et al., Thomson West, 2010, with 2022-2023 supplement (also available on Westlaw).
  - Chapter 40. Jurisdiction to Enter and Enforce Custody Orders
    - § 40:27. International application
    - § 40:28. Enforcement jurisdiction under the UCCJEA, generally
- 1 *Legal Rights of Children*, rev. 3d ed., by Thomas R. Young, 2024-2025 ed., Thomson West (also available on Westlaw).
  - Chapter 5. Parental Kidnapping of Children
    - § 5:14. International Aspects of Child Abductions
    - § 5:15. International Child Abduction Remedies Act; The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
- 4 *Child Custody and Visitation Law and Practice*, by Sandra Morgan Little, Matthew Bender, 2025 (also available on Lexis).
  - Chapter 32. International Enforcement of Child Custody
    - § 32.02. Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
    - § 32.03. International Enforcement Outside the Hague Convention

Each of our law libraries own the Connecticut treatises cited. You can [contact](#) us or visit our [catalog](#) to determine which of our law libraries own the other treatises cited or to search for more treatises.

References to online databases refer to in-library use of these databases. Remote access is not available.

- *The Hague Abduction Convention: Practical Issues and Procedures for Family Lawyer*, 3d, by Jeremy d. Morley, American Bar Association, 2021.
  - Chapter 1. Introducing the Hague Abduction Convention
  - Chapter 2. Procedural and Practical Issues
  - Chapter 3. Habitual Residence
  - Chapter 4. Rights of Custody
  - Chapter 5. Consent and Acquiescence
  - Chapter 6. One Year and Settled
  - Chapter 7. The Child's Objections
  - Chapter 8. Grave Risk of Harm
  - Chapter 9. Human Rights Exception
  - Chapter 10. Rights of Access
  - Chapter 11. The Hague Convention and International Relocation and Travel
  - Appendix 4: State Department Legal Analysis
  - Appendix 5: Application under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
  - Appendix 6: Hague Convention – General Instructions
  - Appendix 8: Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014
- *International Family Law Deskbook 2d*, by Ann Laquer Estin, American Bar Association, 2016.
  - Chapter 6. International Child Abduction
    - § 6.1. Working with the U.S. Central Authority Seeking Assistance after a Wrongful Removal or Retention
      - Outgoing Hague Abduction and Access Cases
      - Abductions to Non-Hague Countries
      - Incoming Abduction and Access Cases
      - Mediation and Voluntary Agreements
    - § 6.2. Litigating Hague Abduction Cases
      - Establishing a Wrongful Removal or Retention
        - Habitual Residence
        - Rights of Custody
        - Actual Exercise
      - Establishing an Exception to Return
        - Article 12: More Than One Year/ Child Settled in New Environment
        - Article 13a: Rights Not Exercised, Consent or Acquiescence
        - Article 13b: Grave Risk of Harm or Intolerable Situation
        - Article 13: Child's Objections to Return
        - Article 20: Public Policy: Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
        - Equitable Arguments: Unclean Hands and Fugitive Disentitlement
      - Return Orders and Undertakings
        - Enforcement and Recognition of Return Orders
        - Rights of Access



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## Special Procedural and Evidentiary Issues

Judicial Communication

Provisional Measures

Effects of Convention Proceedings on Custody

Litigation

Choosing between the Convention and the UCCJEA

Federal Abstention

Stays and Appeals

Mediation

Attorney's Fees

Litigating Hague Abductions in Other Countries

### § 6.3. Using Criminal and Tort Law Remedies

International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act

Immigration Sanctions

### § 6.4. Preventing Child Abduction

- *Handling Child Custody, Abuse, and Adoption Cases 3d* by Ann M. Haralambie, Thomson West, 2009 with 2024-2025 supplement.

#### Chapter 2. Jurisdiction

§ 2:25. The Hague Convention and ICARA generally

§ 2:26. Participating countries

§ 2:27. Persons covered

§ 2:28. Country of habitual residence

§ 2:29. Exercise of custody rights

§ 2:30. Wrongful removal or retention

§ 2:31. Remedies available for custody rights

§ 2:32. Remedies available for access rights

§ 2:33. Procedures for implementing the convention

§ 2:34. Defenses to return

§ 2:35. Defenses to return – Settled in new environment

§ 2:36. Defenses to return - Acquiescence

§ 2:37. Defenses to return – Objection of a child of sufficient age and maturity

§ 2:38. Defenses to return—Grave risk (Hague Convention)

§ 2:39. Defenses to return – Human rights and fundamental freedoms

Appendix 2-4. Analysis of Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

Appendix 2-6. International Child Abduction Remedies Act

Appendix 2-7. Application for Assistance under the Hague Convention on Child Abduction

#### Chapter 19. Interference with Custody and Visitation

§ 19:1. Child snatching

§ 19:2. Denial of visitation

§ 19:3. Prevention

§ 19:4. Steps to take to locate an abducted child



- § 19:8. Hague convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction
- § 19:12. Restrictions on visitation or travel
- § 19:13. Passports and visas
- § 19:15. Punitive modification
- § 19:17. Federal parent locator service
- § 19:18. International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act of 1993
- § 19:19. State statutes
- § 19:20. Theories
- § 19:21. Plaintiffs
- § 19:22. Defendants
- § 19:23. Jurisdiction
- § 19:24. Remedies
- § 19:25. Defenses
- Appendix 19-1. Worksheet for Reporting an Abducted Child
- Appendix 19-2. International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act of 1993
- Appendix 19-3. Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act

#### Chapter 23. Appeals and Writs

- § 23:10. Traditional or common law writs: generally – Habeas corpus in child custody matters
- § 23:33.50. When a discretionary stay merits consideration – Requesting a stay of a child’s return to country of habitual residence under the Hague Convention and ICARA

- *International Child Abductions: A Guide to Applying the Hague Convention, With Forms*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., by Gloria F. DeHart, ed., American Bar Association, 1993.
- *International Family Law Practice*, by Jeremy Morley, Thomson West, 2024 ed.

#### Chapter 9. The Hague Abduction Convention

- I. Overview
- II. Fundamental Terms of the Convention
- III. The “Grave Risk of Harm” Exception
- IV. Other Exceptions
- V. Practical and Procedural Issues

#### Chapter 10. Recovering Abducted Children from Non-Hague Convention Countries

#### **LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

- Stutee Nag, *International Parental Child Abduction: The Perils of Fighting for Custody in Foreign Courts*, 97 New York State Bar Journal 83, Winter 2025.
- Stutee Nag, *International Child Custody Disputes between India and the United States: No Hague, So Vague!* 36

- Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers 445 (2024).
- Jeremy D. Morley, *Strategic Planning for International Divorces*, 36 International Issues in Family Law 417 (2024).
  - Katherine Jenkins, *The Hague Convention on International Parental Kidnapping: Still the Best Hope For Children?*, 6 Cardozo International Comparative Law Review 623 (Spring, 2023).
  - Rebecca Jacobson, *A Clarified Standard? A Case Note on Monasky v. Taglieri*, 43 Cardozo Law Review 345 (October 2021).
  - Molshree "Molly" A. Sharma, *Golan v. Saada: Protecting Domestic Abuse Survivors in International Child Custody Disputes*, 56 Family Law Quarterly 251 (2022-2023).
  - Deborah Reece, *Exposure to Family Violence in Hague Child Abduction Cases*, 36 Emory International Law Review 81 (2022).
  - Abigail Leean Heeter, *Monasky v. Taglieri: The Supreme Court's Interpretation of Habitual Residency and Its Impact of International Child Abduction*, 18 Loyola University Chicago International Law Review 95 (2022).
  - Merle H. Weiner, *You Can and You Should: How Judges Can Apply the Hague Abduction Convention to Protect Victims of Domestic Violence*, 28 UCLA Women's Law Journal 223 (2021).
  - Andrew A. Zashin, *Domestic Violence by Proxy: A Framework for Considering a Child's Return under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction's Article 13(b) Grave Risk of Harm Cases Post Monasky*, 33 Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers 571 (2021).
  - Reid T. Sherard, [Demystifying International Child Abduction Claims Under the Hague Convention](#), South Carolina Lawyer (2013).
  - Jennifer Paton, *The Correct Approach to the Examination of the Best Interests of the Child in Abduction Convention Proceedings Following the Decision of the Supreme Court in Re E (Children) (Abduction: Custody Appeal)*, 8 Journal of Private International Law 547, Number 3 (December 2012).
  - Elizabeth Pitman, *Making the Interests of the Child Paramount: Representation for Children in the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child*

*Abduction*, 17 Cardozo Journal of International and Comparative Law 515, Number 3 (Summer 2009).

- Linda Silberman, *Interpreting the Hague Abduction Convention: In Search of a Global Jurisprudence*, 38 U. C. D. L. Rev. 1049, Number 4 (April 2005).
- Merle H. Weiner, *Using Article 20*, 38 Family Law Quarterly 583, Number 3 (Fall 2004). Special Issue Symposium on International Law.
- Janice Brice Wellington et al., *Jurisdiction In Child Custody And Abduction Cases: A Judge's Guide To The UCCJA, PKPA, And The Hague Abduction Convention*, 48 Juvenile and Family Court Journal pp. i-vi, Number 2 (1997).
- Robert J. Levy, *Memoir Of An Academic Lawyer: Hague Convention Theory Confronts Practice*, 29 Family Law Quarterly 171, Number 1 (Spring 1995).
- Linda Silberman, *Hague Convention on International Child Abduction: A Brief Overview And Case Law Analysis*, 28 Family Law Quarterly 9, Number 1 (Spring 1994). Special Issue on International Family Law.
- Carol S. Bruch, *The Central Authority's Role Under The Hague Child Abduction Convention: A Friend In Deed*, 28 Family Law Quarterly 35, Number 1 (Spring 1994). Special Issue on International Family Law.
- Raymond R. Norko, *Mandatory Implementation of The Hague Convention on International Child Abduction: An Open Letter To President William Clinton*, 8 Connecticut Journal of International Law 575, Number 2 (Spring 1993).

**WEBSITES & DATABASES:**

- [U.S. Hague Convention Treaty Partners](#)
- [The International Child Abduction Database](#) (Case law search and analysis)
- [A Family Resource Guide on International Parental Kidnapping](#), U.S. Department of Justice
- [International Parental Child Abduction](#), U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Children's Issues
- [Child Abduction Section](#), Hague Conference on Private International Law
- 3 July 2020 version of [the Toolkit](#) for the 1980 Child Abduction In Times of Covid-19
- [HCCH Guides to Good Practice](#)

“These publications are more particularly aimed at the authorities of the Members of the HCCH and Contracting States who are charged with applying the Conventions, but can also be a useful source of information for practitioners – judges, lawyers, notaries, social workers – who are working with the Conventions for which they have been drawn up.”

- [Guide to Good Practice Child Abduction Convention: Part VI - Article 13\(1\)\(b\)](#); 2020
- [Guide to Good Practice Child Abduction Convention: Part V - Mediation](#); 2012
- [Guide to Good Practice Child Abduction Convention: Part IV - Enforcement](#); 2010
- [Transfrontier Contact Concerning Children – General Principles and Guide to Good Practice](#); 2008
- [Guide to Good Practice Child Abduction Convention: Part III - Preventive Measures](#); 2005
- [Guide to Good Practice Child Abduction Convention: Part II - Implementing Measures](#); 2003
- [Guide to Good Practice Child Abduction Convention: Part I - Central Authority Practice](#); 2003

Table 1: Requirements of the Hague Convention

<a href="#">Caro v. Sher</a> , 296 N.J. Super. 594, 598, 687 A.2d 354 (1996)
1. The nations involved must be signatories to the Convention
2. The children must be "habitual resident(s) in a Contracting State immediately before any breach of custody or access right." (The Convention, art. 4);
3. The children must be under the age of sixteen. (The Convention, art. 4); and
4. The children's removal or retention in a country other than their place of habitual residence must have been wrongful, <i>e.g.</i> "it is in breach of rights of custody attributed to a person . . . , either jointly or alone, under the law of the State in which the child was habitually resident immediately before the removal or retention." (The Convention, art. 3(a)).
Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can <a href="#">contact your local law librarian</a> to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

Table 2: Affirmative Defenses to International Parental Kidnapping

International Parental Kidnapping - <a href="#">18 U.S.C. §1204</a> (c) (1)-(3)
<p>(c) It shall be an affirmative defense under this section that -</p> <p>(1) The defendant acted within the provisions of a valid court order granting the defendant legal custody or visitation rights and that order was obtained pursuant to the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act or the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act and was in effect at the time of the offense;</p>
<p>(2) the defendant was fleeing an incidence or pattern of domestic violence; or</p>
<p>(3) the defendant had physical custody of the child pursuant to a court order granting legal custody or visitation rights and failed to return the child as a result of circumstances beyond the defendant's control, and the defendant notified or made reasonable attempts to notify the other parent or lawful custodian of the child of such circumstances within 24 hours after the visitation period had expired and returned the child as soon as possible.</p>
<p>You can visit your local law library or <a href="#">search the most recent U.S. Code</a> on the U.S. Code website to confirm that you are accessing the most up-to-date laws.</p>

## Section 2: Federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA)

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

### **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to the Federal PKPA as it relates to Connecticut.

### **SEE ALSO:**

- [Section 3](#): Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act

### **DEFINITIONS:**

- **Purpose:** "deter interstate abductions and other unilateral removals of children undertaken to obtain custody and visitations awards." [Pub.L. 96-611](#) § 7(c)(6).
- "Under the PKPA, a court of one state generally must enforce, and may not modify, a child custody determination of another state when the custody determination was made consistently with the provisions of the PKPA." [Murphy v. Woerner](#), 748 P.2d 749, 750 (Alaska 1988).
- **Home state:** "means the State in which, immediately preceding the time involved, the child lived with his parents, a parent, or a person acting as parent, for at least six consecutive months, and in the case of a child less than six months old, the State in which the child lived from birth with any of such persons. Periods of temporary absence of any of such persons are counted as part of the six month or other period;" [28 U.S.C. § 1738A](#)(b)(4).

### **U.S. CODE:**

You can visit your local law library or [search the most recent U.S. Code](#) on the U.S. Code website to confirm that you are accessing the most up-to-date laws.

- [28 U.S.C. § 1738A](#) - Full faith and credit given to child custody determinations.

### **CASE LAW:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update them to ensure they are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about updating cases.

### **Connecticut Supreme and Appellate Court Decisions**

- [Scott v. Somers](#), 97 Conn. App. 46, 55, 903 A.2d 663 (2006). "Because Somers continues to reside in Florida, the Florida court has exclusive, continuing jurisdiction over its custody determination, under Florida law, until a *Florida court* determines that significant connections do not exist in Florida. Thus, a party seeking to modify Florida's custody determination must obtain an order from Florida stating that it no longer has jurisdiction. This was not done in the present case and, therefore, Connecticut did not have jurisdiction to modify Florida's order."

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Brown v. Brown](#), 195 Conn. 98, 119-120, 486 A.2d 1116 (1985). "The PKPA provides that the courts of every state enforce a child custody determination of another state if made 'consistently' with the PKPA provisions. 28 U.S.C. § 1738A (c). Geared as the PKPA is toward establishing national jurisdictional standards that endeavor to reduce interstate child abductions, the application of the PKPA to this case initially turns on the definition of a 'custody determination.' We believe that the orders of the Florida court which, in effect, generated this Connecticut action, fall squarely within the PKPA definition of a 'custody determination.' 28 U.S.C. § 1738A (b) (3)."

### **Connecticut Trial Court Decisions**

- [Perez v. Negron](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford at Hartford, No. HHD FA14-4072256-S (Oct. 22, 2014) (59 Conn. L. Rptr. 170) (2014 WL 6476926) (2014 Conn. Super. LEXIS 2572). "Jurisdiction in this case therefore comes down to the question of whether a court in Puerto Rico or a court in Connecticut, each having the authority to do so, first made a custody determination entitled to the other's full faith and credit. The following section of the PKPA is critical to resolving that question:

(e) Before a child custody or visitation determination is made, reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard shall be given to the contestants, any parent whose parental rights have not been previously terminated and any person who has physical custody of a child.

28 U.S.C. §1738A(e). In this case, both courts have entered child custody orders. Under the PKPA, the order entitled to full faith and credit is not simply the first one entered, but the first one entered with the benefit of the due process protections stated in 28 U.S.C. §1738A(e)."

- [Lebejko v. Lebejko](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Windham at Putnam, No. FA06-4004870-S (Feb. 8, 2007) (42 Conn. L. Rptr. 760) (2007 WL 824452) (2007 Conn. Super. LEXIS 602). "The purpose behind the PKPA was to eliminate the four 'bases' or 'factors' in the original UCCJA which had resulted in all of the conflicts and resulting inconsistencies which had created an unworkable and non-uniform interstate act. Instead, enforceability under the PKPA was to be based on the priority of home state jurisdiction. That provision of the uniform act was adopted in Connecticut as Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46b-115k."
- [Venditti v. Plonski](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Ansonia-Milford at Milford, No. FA01-0076354-S (Feb. 5, 2002) (2002 WL 241376) (2002 Conn. Super. LEXIS 339).



Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

"Even though the facts may be unclear as to the defendant's permanent intentions, this court does not need to find that Arizona is in fact the home state of the minor child. Using the significant connections test, it is clear that the child has more ties to Arizona and that jurisdiction should reside in that state. The plaintiff will have full opportunity to contest custody and to present all evidence necessary for a thoughtful custody and visitation determination in that state. Therefore, the motion to dismiss is granted."

- *Rowland v. Rowland*, Superior Court, Judicial District of Ansonia-Milford at Milford, No. FA97-0057152-S (Aug. 19, 1999) (1999 WL 669794) (1999 Conn. Super. LEXIS 2282). "The language of the federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980 (PKPA), 28 U.S.C. § 1738A must now be examined. That act requires the states to give full faith and credit to the custody decisions of other states that are consistent with federal law. The requirement, of course, is mandatory because of the Supremacy Clause of the federal constitution."

### **Other States**

- *Wilson v. Gouse*, 263 Ga. 887, 889, 441 S.E.2d 57, 59 (Ga. 1994). "As a preliminary matter, we find the PKPA applies in all interstate child custody disputes."
- *Murphy v. Woerner*, 748 P.2d 749, 750 (Alaska 1988). "To the extent that the PKPA and the UCCJA conflict, the PKPA preempts state law."

### **WEST KEY NUMBERS:**

- *Child Custody* #700-789. Interstate Issues
- *Kidnapping* #10. In general

### **DIGESTS:**

- *ALR Digest*: Kidnapping
- *ALR Index*: Abduction and Kidnapping, Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act
- *Connecticut Family Law Citations*  
Chapter 11. Child Custody and Visitation  
§ 11.09. Parental Abduction

### **ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

Encyclopedias and ALRs are available in print at some law library locations and accessible online at all law library locations.

Online databases are available for in-library use. Remote access is not available.

- 1 *Am Jur 2d* Abduction and Kidnapping, Thomson West, 2016 (Also available on Westlaw).  
III. Abduction or Kidnapping by Parent or Person In Loco Parentis  
§ 35. Parental rights, custody, and kidnapping  
§ 36. Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act  
§ 37. Federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act
- 24A *Am Jur 2d* Divorce and Separation, Thomson West, 2018 (Also available on Westlaw).  
§ 827. Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act, generally

Encyclopedias and ALRs are available in print at some law library locations and accessible online at all law library locations.

Online databases are available for in-library use. Remote access is not available.

- 59 *Am Jur 2d* Parent and Child, Thomson West, 2023 (Also available on Westlaw).  
VIII- Actions Involving Parent and Child  
§ 118. Enticement or abduction of child; interference with custody
- 67A *CJS* Parent and Child, Thomson West, 2023 (Also available on Westlaw).  
II. Rights and Duties Incident to Relationship  
§ 98. Jurisdiction and venue, Generally  
§ 103. Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980  
§ 374. Other offenses
- 51 *CJS* Kidnapping, Thomson West, 2021 (Also available on Westlaw).  
II. Persons Liable for Offense  
B. Defenses  
§ 32. Parental status as defense  
§ 33. Elements of custodial interference statutes; federal statutes  
§ 34. Liability of third party who assists in kidnaping child
- 5 COA 799, *Cause of Action Against Noncustodial Parent for Interference with Custody Rights to Child*, by Don C. Smith Jr., Thomson West, 1984 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 40 A.L.R. 5<sup>th</sup> 227, *Recognition and enforcement of out-of-state custody decree under § 13 of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA) or the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA)*, 28 U.S.C.A. § 1738A(a), by David Carl Minneman, J.D. Thomson West, 1996 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 67 A.L.R. Fed. 3d Art. 6, *Provisional Remedies Under State and Federal Law Under Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Remedies Act (ICARA)*, 22 U.S.C.A. §9004, by Daneille Bolong, J.D. L.L.M., Thomson West, 2022 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 78 A.L.R.5th 465, *Abandonment Jurisdiction of Court Under §§ 3(a)(3)(i) and 14(a) of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act and Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act*, 28 U.S.C.A. §§ 1738A(c)(2)(C)(i) and 1738A(f), *Notwithstanding Existence of Prior Valid Custody Decree Rendered by Second State*, by David Carl Minneman, Thomson West, 2000 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 73 A.L.R.5th 185, *Declining Jurisdiction to Modify Prior Child Custody Decree Under § 14(a)(1) of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA) and Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA)*, 28 U.S.C.A. § 1738A(f)(2), by David Carl

Minneman, Thomson West, 1999 (Also available on Westlaw).

- 72 A.L.R.5th 249, *Home State Jurisdiction of Court to Modify Foreign Child Custody Decree Under §§ 3(a)(1) and 14(a)(2) of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA) and Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA)*, 28 U.S.C.A. §§ 1738A(c)(2)(A) and 1738A(f)(1), by David Carl Minneman, Thomson West, 1999 (Also available on Westlaw).

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    - § 40:1. In general
    - § 40:2. Purpose
    - § 40:3. Scope; definitions
    - § 40:10. Modification—Continuing exclusive jurisdiction
    - § 40:11. Personal jurisdiction; notice requirements
    - § 40:12. Prohibition on simultaneous proceedings
    - § 40:17. Relevance of best interests standard to jurisdictional determinations
    - § 40:22. Hearings and testimony in Connecticut
- 1 *Legal Rights of Children*, rev. 3d ed., by Thomas R. Young, 2024-2025 ed., Thomson West (also available on Westlaw).
  - Chapter 5. Parental Kidnapping of Children
    - § 5:1. Parental kidnapping of children in general
    - § 5:2. The Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA) of 1980
    - § 5:3. --Full faith and credit given to child custody determinations
    - § 5:4. --Federal jurisdictional questions
    - § 5:5. --Definitions of terms used in PKPA
    - § 5:6. --State court child custody consistency tests
- 1 *Child Custody and Visitation Law and Practice*, by Sandra Morgan Little, Matthew Bender, 2025 (also available on Lexis).
  - Chapter 3. Impact of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA): an Overview
    - § 3.01[3]. Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act
  - Chapter 5. Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments
    - § 5.30 The Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980

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- *Handling Child Custody, Abuse, and Adoption Cases 3d* by Ann M. Haralambie, Thomson West, 2009 with 2024-2025 supplement.
  - Chapter 2. Jurisdiction
    - § 2.21. Emergencies (PKPA)
  - Appendix 2-3. Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980
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  - Chapter 23. Appeals and Writs
    - § 23:10. Traditional or common law writs: generally – Habeas corpus in child custody matters
    - § 23:33.50. When a discretionary stay merits consideration – Requesting a stay of a child's return to country of habitual residence under the Hague Convention and ICARA
- *International Family Law Practice*, by Jeremy Morley, Thomson West, 2024.
  - Chapter 11. International Travel: Preventing International Child Abduction

#### **LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

- Frank Cracchiolo, *Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act Rights of Parents: Part Three: Custody and Visitation*, 16 Journal of Contemporary Legal Issues 299, Issue 1 (2007).
- Marian C. Abram, *The Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act: Constitutionality and Effectiveness*, 33 Case Western L. Rev. 89 (1982)

## Section 3: Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

### **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) which was effective in Connecticut on July 1, 2000.

### **SEE ALSO:**

- [Section 5 \(Out of State Custody Orders\)](#) – Child Custody Actions in Connecticut (Research Guide)

### **DEFINITIONS:**

- **Child custody determination:** "means a judgment, decree, or other order of a court providing for the legal custody, physical custody or visitation with respect to a child. The term includes a permanent, temporary, initial and modification order. The term does not include an order relating to child support or other monetary obligation of an individual;" Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-115a](#)(3) (2025).
- **Home State:** "means the state in which a child lived with a parent or person acting as a parent for at least six consecutive months immediately before the commencement of a child custody proceeding. In the case of a child less than six months old, the term means the state in which the child lived from birth with any such parent or person acting as a parent. A period of temporary absence of any such person is counted as part of the period;" Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-115a](#)(7) (2025).
- **Indian Child Welfare Act:** "A child custody proceeding that pertains to an Indian child as defined in the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 USC Section 1901 et seq., is not subject to this chapter to the extent that it is governed by the Indian Child Welfare Act." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-115c](#) (2025).
- **Exclusive, continuing jurisdiction:** Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-115j](#) (2025).
- **Modification of custody determination of another state:** Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-115m](#) (2025).
- **Taking testimony in another state.** Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-115i](#) (2025).
- **Temporary Emergency Jurisdiction:** Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-115n](#) (2025).

## **STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2025)  
[Chapter 815p](#). Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act  
§§ [46b-115](#) et seq.  
Part I. General provisions  
Part II. Jurisdiction  
Part III. Enforcement ([see Table 3](#))  
Part IV. Foreign child custody

## **CASE LAW:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

### **Connecticut Supreme and Appellate Court Decisions**

- [Ammar I. v Evelyn W.](#), 227 Conn. App. 827, 833- 834, 323 A.3d 1111 (2024). "The plaintiff nonetheless argues that the court possessed jurisdiction over his petition pursuant to the third basis set forth in that statute. Section 46b-115k (a) (3) confers jurisdiction on the courts of this state when '[a] court of another state does not have jurisdiction under subdivisions (1) or (2) of this subsection, the child and at least one parent or person acting as a parent have a significant connection with this state other than mere physical presence, and there is substantial evidence available in this state concerning the child's care, protection, training and personal relationships.' By its plain language, that third basis for jurisdiction 'exists when a court of another state does not have home state jurisdiction ....' *Parisi v. Niblett*, supra, 199 Conn. App. at 784, 238 A.3d 740. Because it is undisputed that the children lived with the defendant in North Carolina since October, 2021—approximately thirteen months prior to the commencement of this child custody proceeding—the state of North Carolina possessed home state jurisdiction over visitation petitions involving them. See N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 50A-102 (7) and 50A-201 (a) (1) (2023). Accordingly, § 46b-115k (a) (3) does not authorize the courts of this state to act on the plaintiff's petition for third-party visitation. We therefore concur with the observation of the trial court in its memorandum of decision 'that Connecticut is not the home state of the children and that North Carolina ... is the appropriate forum to decide such a [petition].'"
- [Parisi v. Niblett](#), 199 Conn. App. 761, 238 A. 3d 740 (2020). "Section 46b-70 et seq. establishes the procedures for domesticating a foreign matrimonial judgment in this state, and the jurisdiction of a trial court to modify a foreign child custody order is limited by the UCCJEA. A trial court is required to determine whether it has jurisdiction to make a custody determination pursuant to the UCCJEA. See [Scott v. Somers](#), 97 Conn. App. 46, 50–51, 903 A.2d 663 (2006). According to § 46b-56(a) , a trial court may make or modify a child custody order *only* if it has jurisdiction under the UCCJEA. Section 46b-56 (a) provides in relevant part: 'In any controversy before the Superior Court as to the custody or care of minor children

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... the court may make or modify any proper order regarding the custody, care, education, visitation and support of the children if it has jurisdiction under the provisions of chapter 815p [UCCJEA].’

The purposes of the UCCJEA coincide with the statutory requirement that a trial court assess its jurisdiction under the UCCJEA prior to modifying a child custody order made by another state. “The purposes of the UCCJEA are to avoid jurisdictional competition and conflict with courts of other states in matters of child custody; promote cooperation with the courts of other states; discourage continuing controversies over child custody; deter abductions; avoid [relitigation] of custody decisions; and to facilitate the enforcement of custody decrees of other states. ... The UCCJEA addresses [interjurisdictional] issues related to child custody and visitation. ... The UCCJEA is the enabling legislation for the court's jurisdiction.” (Citations omitted; internal quotation marks omitted.) [In re Iliana M.](#), 134 Conn. App. 382, 390, 38 A.3d 130 (2012).

Accordingly, § 46b-56 (a) does not automatically grant subject matter jurisdiction over a properly domesticated foreign child custody judgment but, rather, expressly and unambiguously requires the trial court to examine the enabling legislation, the UCCJEA, in order to determine whether it has subject matter jurisdiction to modify Florida's child custody order. We conclude, therefore, that it was proper for the court to apply the provisions of the UCCJEA.”

- [Devone v. Finley](#), 148 Conn. App. 647, 653-54, 87 A.3d 1120 (2014). “The Georgia Superior Court, in accordance with the law prescribed by its state, issued a temporary custody order giving the defendant immediate custody of the minor child. That court found that the plaintiff failed to legitimize the child and thus concluded that the defendant is the only party entitled to custody of the child. The full faith and credit clause requires our courts to recognize and enforce the judgment of the Georgia Superior Court. In so doing, the trial court held that the plaintiff, who has no recognized custody rights over the minor child, lacked standing to bring a custody application in this state.”
- [In re Iliana M.](#), 134 Conn. App. 382, 390, 38 A.3d 130 (2012). “At the outset, we note our agreement with the decisions of the Superior Court that have set forth the goals of the UCCJEA. ‘The purposes of the UCCJEA are to avoid jurisdictional competition and conflict with courts of other states in matters of child custody; promote cooperation with the courts of other states; discourage continuing controversies over child custody; deter abductions; avoid re-litigation of custody decisions; and to facilitate the



enforcement of custody decrees of other states. . . . The UCCJEA addresses inter-jurisdictional issues related to child custody and visitation.”

- [In re Deleon J.](#), 290 Conn. 371, 377-378, 963 A.2d 53 (2009). “In addressing the issue of jurisdiction, the court noted that it had made an initial child custody determination, pursuant to General Statutes § 46b-115k, when it ordered protective supervision of the child on September 21, 2000, and that it subsequently had modified that disposition on April 22, 2002, when it ordered guardianship of the child to be transferred to the grandmother. The court further determined that the respondent and the grandmother both reside in Connecticut. The court concluded, therefore, that its exclusive, continuing jurisdiction had not expired pursuant to § 46b-115(a)(1).”
- [Temlock v. Temlock](#), 95 Conn. App. 505, 520-521, 898 A.2d 209 (2006). “Even when a Connecticut trial court does not have exclusive jurisdiction over a child custody matter, it still may maintain concurrent jurisdiction under the UCCJEA pursuant to General Statutes § 46b-115l (b), but only ‘if it has jurisdiction to make an initial determination under section 46b-115k.’ General Statutes § 46b-115l(b).”

### **Connecticut Trial Court Decisions**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [Carrubba v. Carrubba](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford at Hartford, No. FA17-4084958-S (Sep. 12, 2017) (2017 Conn. Super. LEXIS 4477) (2017 WL 5015142). “In addition to arguing the court’s exercise of temporary emergency jurisdiction should be vacated, the petitioner argues the court has no jurisdiction to entertain the motion to return the minor child or for contempt. The plaintiff’s claim that the court no longer has jurisdiction over Laina is correct. The court exercised temporary emergency jurisdiction for a finite period, which has since passed. The petitioner’s claim that the court does not have jurisdiction over him is misplaced. The petitioner submitted himself to the jurisdiction of this court when he filed an appearance and a motion to enforce the New York custody judgment. Thus, the court had in personum jurisdiction.”
- [Byroo-Johnson v. Johnson](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford at Hartford, No. FA13-4068580-S (May 3, 2016) (2016 WL 2935563) (2016 Conn. Super. LEXIS 960). “Although the court is unable to decline jurisdiction under §46b-115l, the court may decline jurisdiction under General Statutes §46b-115q.”



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- Dreiling v. Dreiling, Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford at Hartford, Nos. FA15-5040055-S, FA15-4080175-S (Apr. 14, 2016) (2016 WL 1728242) (2016 Conn. Super. LEXIS 779). "Under certain circumstances, a Connecticut court must treat a foreign custody determination as a child custody determination of another state, pursuant to General Statutes §46b-115ii. General Statutes §46b-115d sets out the international application of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA): '[f]or purposes of [the UCCJEA], any child custody order of a foreign country shall be treated in the manner provided in section 46b-115hh.' General Statutes §46b-115hh defines a '[f]oreign child custody determination,' as used in §46b-115ii, as 'any judgment, decree or other order of a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction of a foreign state providing for legal custody, physical custody or visitation with respect to a child.' Section 46b-115ii provides that '[a] court of this state shall treat a foreign child custody determination made under factual circumstances in substantial conformity with the jurisdictional standards of this chapter, including reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard to all affected persons, as a child custody determination of another state under sections 46b-115 to 46b-115t, inclusive, unless such determination was rendered under child custody law which violates fundamental principles of human rights or unless such determination is repugnant to the public policy of this state.'"
- Perez v. Negron, Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford at Hartford, No. HHD FA 14-4072256 (Oct. 22, 2014) (59 Conn. L. Rptr. 170, 173-174) (2014 Conn. Super. LEXIS 2572). "The father argues that, as an emergency determination, the order of the Puerto Rico court is only temporary and must give way now to the jurisdiction of Connecticut, which can claim home state status. That might have been the case if Puerto Rico had adopted Connecticut's version of the UCCJEA, which provides for emergency orders to remain in effect only until orders are issued in a state having jurisdiction under another basis (such as being the child's home state). Section 46b-115n of the Connecticut General Statutes. But the present jurisdictional assessment must be made on the basis of the law of Puerto Rico, which has not adopted the UCCJEA and its limitations on emergency jurisdiction. Scott v. Somers, 97 Conn.App. 46, 52 (2006). And nothing in the PKPA itself imposes a temporal limit on the jurisdiction that a state acquires in an emergency situation described in 28 U.S.C. §1738A(c)(2)(C). The order entered in Puerto Rico on May 21, 2014, while designated as temporary, is stated by its terms to be in effect for one year. Connecticut must give the order full faith and credit, and PKPA does not permit this

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state to shorten the duration of Puerto Rico's order by applying Connecticut law."

- Desjardins v. Charity, Superior Court, Judicial District of New London, No. FA 11-4115761 (Apr. 19, 2011) (2011 WL 1886492) (2011 Conn. Super. LEXIS 1057). "It is this court's obligation to determine under the Uniform Child Custody and Jurisdiction Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) that it has jurisdiction to make an initial determination as to the children's custody. Scott v. Somers, 97 Conn. App. 46 (2006). This duty implicates the subject matter jurisdiction of the court and hence must be raised and determined by the court on its own motion if not formally raised by the parties. Absent a statutory basis for such exercise of jurisdiction, the parties cannot by agreement confer jurisdiction upon the court. Muller v. Muller, 43 Conn. App. 327 (1996)."
- Lamprey-Mills v. Ward, Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford, No. FA 01 0726826 (June 16, 2005) (39 Conn. L. Rptr. 523, 525) (2005 Conn. Super LEXIS 1541). "The purposes of the UCCJEA are to avoid jurisdictional competition and conflict with courts of other states in matters of child custody; promote cooperation with the courts of other states; discourage continuing controversies over child custody; deter abductions; avoid re-litigation of custody decisions; and to facilitate the enforcement of custody decrees of other states . . . The UCCJEA addresses inter-jurisdictional issues related to child custody and visitation. The UCCJEA allows a Connecticut court to maintain exclusive, continuing jurisdiction over child custody determinations until one of the enumerated events under § 46b-115l occurs . . . In subsection (a) of § 46b-115l, the decree-granting state retains exclusive continuing jurisdiction until: (1) A court of this state or a court of another state determines that the child, the child's parents and any person acting as a parent do not presently reside in this state; or (2) a court of this state determines that (A) this state is not the home state of the child, (B) a parent or a person acting as a parent continues to reside in this state but the child no longer has a significant relationship with such parent or person, and (c) substantial evidence is no longer available in this state concerning the child's care, protection, training and personal relationships. Subsection (b) provides: A court of this state which has made a child custody determination but does not have exclusive, continuing jurisdiction under this section may modify that determination only if it has jurisdiction to make an initial determination under section 46b-115k." (Citations omitted; internal quotation marks omitted.)
- Davis v. Kania, 48 Conn. Sup. 141, 145-146, 836 A.2d 480 (2003). "Because both the plaintiff and defendant were parties to the California action and the judgment neither

contravenes Connecticut policy nor violates its laws, the plaintiff can, therefore, enforce his legal right in the state of Connecticut.”

- Lord v. Lord, Superior Court, Judicial District of Fairfield at Bridgeport, No. CV01 0380279 (Aug. 20, 2002) (33 Conn. L. Rptr. 88, 90) (2002 Conn. Super. LEXIS 2748) (2002 WL 31125621). “If parties could consent to jurisdiction in any forum, provisions of the UCCJEA itself would be meaningless. General Statutes § 46b-115k provides that ‘a court of this state has jurisdiction to make an initial child custody determination if’ certain facts are present. Notably, an agreement by the parties that a court shall have subject matter jurisdiction is not one of those factors. General Statutes § 46b-115l provides that ‘a court of this state which has made a child custody determination pursuant to sections 46b-115k to 46b-115m, inclusive, has exclusive, continuing jurisdiction over the determination until’ certain determinations are made by Connecticut or other state courts. Again, not included in this determination is whether the parties have agreed that a court shall take subject matter jurisdiction.”
- Crawford v. Calayag, Superior Court, Judicial District of Danbury, No. FA01-0344498 S (March 22, 2002) (2002 Conn. Super. LEXIS 898) (2002 WL 653241). “Connecticut is not the ‘home state’ of the minor child as that term is defined by § 46b-115a(7) of the Connecticut General Statutes.  
Under the provisions of the UCCJEA, the court has exercised temporary jurisdiction in this matter and has entered the temporary emergency orders recited above in what it found to be the best interests of the minor child and to address the concerns raised by the plaintiff regarding alleged efforts by the defendant to deny the plaintiff access to his minor child.”
- Guillory v. Francks, Superior Court, Judicial District of Windham at Willimantic, No. FA01-0065736S (Feb. 14, 2002) (2002 Conn. Super. LEXIS 628) (2002 WL 442145). “From the record before this court the court concludes that the Florida court continues to exercise jurisdiction in the case . . . . This court is convinced, based upon the continuing activity in the Florida court, that Samantha's presence here in Connecticut is due to a temporary custody order in favor of the plaintiff and thus pursuant to § 46b-115(7) Florida remains the home state of Samantha.”
- Graham v. Graham, Superior Court, Judicial District of Middlesex at Middletown, No. FA92-65185 (Feb. 6, 2002) (2002 Conn. Super. LEXIS 288) (2002 WL 241493). “Under the UCCJEA, jurisdiction largely depends on the status of the involved individuals on the date of the commencement of the

proceeding. Jurisdiction attaches at the commencement of a proceeding. C.G.S. § 46b-115a (5)."

- Gilman v. Gilman, Superior Court, Judicial District of New London at Norwich, No. 0121957S (May 22, 2001) (2001 Conn. Super. LEXIS 1453) (2001 WL 688610). "The new act represents a marked difference from what had been Connecticut General Statute § 46b-93. Under the former statute, a court of this state could exercise jurisdiction if this state was the home state of the child at the time the proceeding was commenced *or* it was in the best interest of the child that the court exercise jurisdiction because the child and his parents had a significant connection to the state. The UCCJEA alters the analysis of the initial determination of child custody. Specifically, the new act requires that the 'home state' determination be made as a condition precedent to an examination as to whether the child and parent have significant connections with this state. The new act also eliminates that analysis on the basis of 'the best interest of the child.'"
- Anselmo v. Anselmo, Superior Court, Judicial District of Stamford-Norwalk at Stamford, No. FA00-0181708 (March 28, 2001) (2001 Conn. Super. LEXIS 863) (2001 WL 358851). ". . . the question becomes on what basis can this court, or any court for that matter, accept jurisdiction regarding custody of an unborn infant."

#### **WEST KEY NUMBERS:**

- *Child Custody* #700-789. Interstate Issues

#### **DIGESTS:**

- *ALR Digest*: Kidnapping
- *ALR Index*: Abduction and Kidnapping, Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act
- *Connecticut Family Law Citations*  
Chapter 11. Child Custody and Visitation  
§ 11.09. Parental Abduction

#### **ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

Encyclopedias and ALRs are available in print at some law library locations and accessible online at all law library locations.

Online databases are available for in-library use. Remote access is not available.

- 1 *Am Jur 2d* Abduction and Kidnapping, Thomson West, 2016 (Also available on Westlaw).  
III. Abduction or Kidnapping by Parent or Person In Loco Parentis  
§ 35. Parental rights, custody, and kidnapping  
§ 36. Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act  
§ 37. Federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act
- 24A *Am Jur 2d* Divorce and Separation, Thomson West, 2018 (Also available on Westlaw).  
IV. Child Custody & Support; Visitation Rights  
§ 815. Interstate custody disputes, generally  
§ 818. Personal jurisdiction in child custody proceeding

§ 819. Subject matter jurisdiction over child custody actions, generally  
 § 820. Home state jurisdiction in child custody proceeding; residency requirement  
 § 821. Significant connection jurisdiction of court in child custody proceeding  
 § 822. Exclusive, continuing jurisdiction in child custody proceeding  
 § 823. Declining to exercise jurisdiction in child custody proceeding due to inconvenient forum  
 § 824. Temporary emergency jurisdiction in child custody proceeding  
 § 825. Default jurisdiction in child custody proceeding  
 § 826. Jurisdiction in child custody proceeding declined by reason of conduct

- 52 A.L.R.6th 433, *Construction and Application of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act's Significant Connection Jurisdiction Provision*, by Claudia G. Catalano, Thomson West, 2010 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 53 A.L.R.6th 419, *Construction and Application of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act's Temporary Emergency Jurisdiction Provision*, by Ann K. Wooster, Thomson West, 2010 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 57 A.L.R.6th 163, *Construction and Application of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act's Home State Jurisdiction Provision*, by Ann K. Wooster, Thomson West, 2010 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 59 A.L.R.6th 161, *Construction and Application of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act's Exclusive, Continuing Jurisdiction Provision--No Significant Connection/Substantial Evidence*, by Claudia G. Catalano, Thomson West, 2010 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 60 A.L.R.6th 193, *Construction and Application of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act's Exclusive, Continuing Jurisdiction Provision--Other Than No Significant Connection/Substantial Evidence*, by Claudia G. Catalano, Thomson West, 2010 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 35 A.L.R.7th Art. 7, *Construction and Operation of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction And Enforcement Act*, 100 ALR 5th 1 (2002). (Superseded in Part by *Inconvenience of Forum as Ground for Declining Jurisdiction Under §207 of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act*, by David Carl Minneman, Thomson West, 2018 (Also available on Westlaw)).

**TEXTS &  
TREATISES:**

- 8 Connecticut Practice Series, *Family Law and Practice with Forms*, 3d ed., by Arnold H. Rutkin, et al., Thomson West,

Each of our law libraries own the Connecticut treatises cited. You can [contact](#) us or visit our [catalog](#) to determine which of our law libraries own the other treatises cited or to search for more treatises.

References to online databases refer to in-library use of these databases. Remote access is not available.

2010, with 2022-2023 supplement (also available on Westlaw).

#### Chapter 40. Jurisdiction to Enter and Enforce Custody Orders

- § 40.1. In general
- § 40.2. Purpose
- § 40.3. Scope; Definitions
- § 40.4. Grounds for UCCJEA jurisdiction—Generally
- § 40.5. Home state jurisdiction
- § 40.9. Temporary emergency jurisdiction
- § 40.10. Modification—Continuing exclusive jurisdiction
- § 40.12. Prohibition on simultaneous proceedings
- § 40.13. Jurisdiction declined due to inconvenient forum
- § 40.14. —Criteria for determining inconvenient forum
- § 40.15. —Effect of determination as to inconvenient forum
- § 40.16. Jurisdiction declined due to unjustifiable conduct
- § 40.17. Relevance of best interests standard to jurisdictional determinations
- § 40.18. Pleadings under UCCJEA
- § 40.27. International application
- § 40.28. Enforcement jurisdiction under the UCCJEA, generally

- *LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law*, Louise Truax, editor, 2025 ed., LexisNexis.

#### Chapter 2. Jurisdiction

- § 2.38. Checklist: Applying the UCCJEA
- § 2.39. Establishing Jurisdiction under the UCCJEA
- § 2.40. Determining Home State Jurisdiction
- § 2.41. Determining Significant Connections with the State
- § 2.42. Determining Jurisdiction When the Child's Home State Has Declined Jurisdiction
- § 2.43. Determining That No Other Court Has Jurisdiction
- § 2.44. Declining Jurisdiction Based Upon Inconvenient Forum
- § 2.45. Determining Whether There Are Simultaneous Proceedings and Resolving Which Court Should Assume Jurisdiction
- § 2.46. Continuing Exclusive Jurisdiction
- § 2.47. Modifying the Custody Determination of Another State
- § 2.48. Asserting Temporary Emergency Jurisdiction
- § 2.49. Providing Notice of Proceedings

- 1 *Legal Rights of Children*, rev. 3d ed., by Thomas R. Young, 2024-2025 ed., Thomson West (also available on Westlaw).

#### Chapter 5. Parental Kidnapping of Children

Each of our law libraries own the Connecticut treatises cited. You can [contact](#) us or visit our [catalog](#) to determine which of our law libraries own the other treatises cited or to search for more treatises.

References to online databases refer to in-library use of these databases. Remote access is not available.

§ 5:7. The Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA)--Generally

§ 5:8. --Definitions

§ 5:9. Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA)--Generally

§ 5:10. Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act--Jurisdictional issues

§ 5:11. UCCJEA--Continuing jurisdiction and modification

§ 5:12. UCCJEA and the PKPA--Conflicts

- 9 Part 1A *Uniform Laws Annotated* 459, Thomson West, 2019.  
Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (1997)  
Prefatory Note, pp. 461-465
- 1 *Child Custody and Visitation Law and Practice*, by Sandra Morgan Little, Matthew Bender, 2025 (also available on Lexis).  
Chapter 3. Impact of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA): An Overview
  - § 3.01[2]. Evolutionary developments—UCCJEA
  - § 3.01[4][b]. Interstate overview—UCCJEA
  - § 3.01[6][b]. Applicability—UCCJEA
  - § 3.02[2]. Objectives—UCCJEA
  - § 3.02A[2]. Jurisdiction to decide this dispute—UCCJEA
  - § 3.02B[2]. Enforcement provisions in UCCJEA
    - [b]. Duty to enforce foreign-state orders
    - [c]. Enforcement under Hague Convention
  - § 3.02C. Extraordinary enforcement under UCCJEA; warrant for physical custody
  - § 3.04[2]. Due process requirements—UCCJEA
  - § 3.05[2]. Pleadings and testimony—UCCJEA
  - § 3.06[2]. Joinder of additional parties; appearances—UCCJEA
  - § 3.07[2]. Cooperation between courts—UCCJEA
- Chapter 4. Interstate Child Custody Jurisdiction Under UCCJA, UCCJEA, and PKPA
- *The Hague Abduction Convention: Practical Issues and Procedures for Family Lawyer*, 3d, by Jeremy d. Morley, American Bar Association, 2021.  
Chapter 1. Introducing the Hague Abduction
  - § 1.19. Relationship of the Convention to the UCCJEA
- *Handling Child Custody, Abuse, and Adoption Cases 3d* by Ann M. Haralambie, Thomson West, 2009 with 2024-2025 supplement.  
Chapter 2. Jurisdiction

- § 2:1. Jurisdiction generally
- § 2:2. Overview
- § 2:3. Applicability and coordination with other laws
- § 2.8 Emergency Jurisdiction (UCCJEA)
- § 2.9. Simultaneous Proceedings
- § 2:10. Non-exercise of jurisdiction
- § 2:12. Enforcement
- § 2:14 International application
- § 2:16. Role of prosecutors, public officials, and law enforcement officers
- § 2:17. Preemption of state law
- Appendix 2-1. Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act
- Appendix 2-3. Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980
- Appendix 2-4. Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
- Appendix 2-5. Analysis of Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
- Appendix 2-6. International Child Abduction Remedies Act
- Appendix 2-7. Application for Assistance under the Hague Convention on Child Abduction
- Chapter 19. Interference with Custody and Visitation
  - § 19:1. Child snatching
  - § 19:2. Denial of visitation
  - § 19:3. Prevention
  - § 19:4. Steps to take to locate an abducted child
  - § 19:5. Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act
  - Appendix 19-1. Worksheet for Reporting an Abducted Child

### **Law Reviews:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

- Emma Walters, *Broadening the Escape Clause: How the UCCJEA Can Protect Female Survivors of Domestic Violence*, 109 California Law Review 1199 (2021).
- Andrew Jack Botros, *The UCCJEA, the PKPA, and Preemption: Why the Jurisdictional Provisions of the UCCJEA Cannot Be Waived*, 34 Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers 35 (2021).



Table 3: Enforcement under UCCJEA

<b>Enforcement under UCCJEA Conn. Gen. Stat. (2025)</b>	
§ <a href="#">46b-115gg</a>	Appeals
§ <a href="#">46b-115ee</a>	Costs, fees and expenses
§ <a href="#">46b-115x</a>	Enforcement of child custody determination
§ <a href="#">46b-115v</a>	<b>Enforcement under Hague Convention.</b> "A court of this state may enforce an order by a federal court or another state court for the return of a child made pursuant to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction in accordance with section 46b-115jj."
§ <a href="#">46b-115aa</a>	Expedited enforcement of child custody determination
§ <a href="#">46b-115cc</a>	<b>Hearing and order.</b> "(a) Unless the court issues a temporary emergency order pursuant to section 46b-115n, the court shall enforce the child custody determination and if appropriate, order the petitioner to take immediate physical custody of the child unless the respondent establishes that. . "
§ <a href="#">46b-115dd</a>	Order to take physical custody of child.
§ <a href="#">46b-115ff</a>	Recognition and enforcement of order issued by another state
§ <a href="#">46b-115w</a>	Registration of child-custody determination
§ <a href="#">46b-115bb</a>	Service of petition and order.
§ <a href="#">46b-115y</a>	Temporary visitation order
You can visit your local law library or search the most recent <a href="#">statutes</a> and <a href="#">public acts</a> on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.	

# Section 4: Family Violence and Parental Kidnapping

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

## **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to the affirmative defense of “risk of harm” to parental child abduction and the granting of “temporary emergency jurisdiction” under PKPA and UCCJEA.

## **SEE ALSO:**

- [Section 1:](#) Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
- [Section 2:](#) Federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA)

## **DEFINITIONS:**

- [Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction](#)  
**Article 13:** “Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding Article, the judicial or administrative authority of the requested State is not bound to order the return of the child if the person, institution or other body which opposes its return establishes that —  
**[Article 13]b** there is a grave risk that his or her return would expose the child to physical or psychological harm or otherwise place the child in an intolerable situation.”  
(Emphasis added)
- **Grave Risk of Harm:** “Article 13(b) of the Convention requires that the child be placed in a ‘grave risk’ of harm. Webster's New World Dictionary, 2nd. College Edition defines grave as: ‘of a threatening nature; indicating great danger; ominous [a grave illness]’. In the psychological context this court accepts Dr. Grenier's definition that ‘grave’ ... ‘would be that their day-to-day functioning and their ability to function at all would be most urgently wiped out or done away with to the point that the person could not conduct a normal kind of life.’” [Renovales v. Roosa](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford-New Britain at Hartford, No. FA91-0392232 (Sep. 27, 1991) (5 Conn. L. Rptr. 609, 610) (1991 Conn. Super. LEXIS 2215).
- **Temporary Emergency Jurisdiction:** “(a) A court of this state has temporary emergency jurisdiction if the child is present in this state and (1) the child has been abandoned, or (2) it is necessary in an emergency to protect the child because the child, a sibling or a parent has been, or is under a threat of being, abused or mistreated. As used in this subsection with respect to a child, ‘abused’ has the same meaning as provided in section 46b-120.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-115n](#) (2025).

- **Abused:** "A child may be found 'abused' who (A) has been inflicted with physical injury or injuries other than by accidental means, (B) has injuries that are at variance with the history given of them, or (C) is in a condition that is the result of maltreatment, including, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation or exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment;" Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-120](#)(5) (2025).
- **Undertakings:** "Return plus conditions ('undertakings') can in some, maybe many, cases properly accommodate the interest in the child's welfare to the interests of the country of the child's habitual residence. Often the bulk of the evidence concerning risk of harm will be found in that country and the left-behind parent's defense to charges of abuse may be more difficult and costly to prepare and present in the country to which the abducted has fled. But in cases of child abuse the balance may shift against return plus conditions." [Van De Sande v. Van De Sande](#), 431 F.3d 567, 571-72 (7th Cir. 2005).

#### **STATUTES AND U.S. CODE:**

You can visit your local law library, [search the most recent U.S. Code](#) on the U.S. Code website or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are accessing the most up-to-date laws.

- 18 U.S.C.  
§ [1204](#)(c)(2). International parental kidnapping
- 22 U.S.C.  
Chapter 97. International Child Abduction Remedies  
§§ [9001-9011](#)
- 25 U.S.C.  
§ [1922](#). Emergency removal or placement of child; termination; appropriate action (Indian Child Welfare)
- 28 U.S.C.  
§ [1738A](#)(c)(2)(C). Full faith and credit given to child custody determinations
- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2025)  
Chapter 815p - Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act  
§ [46b-115n](#). Temporary emergency jurisdiction.

#### **CASE LAW:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update them to ensure they are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about updating cases.

- [Ermini v. Vittori](#), 758 F.3d 153, 165, (2<sup>nd</sup> Cir. 2014). "We believe that these findings by the district court manifestly establish that Ermini engaged in a 'sustained pattern of physical abuse,' *Souratgar*, 720 F.3d at 104 (internal quotation marks omitted), directed at Vittori and the children: Vittori was repeatedly struck; as were the children, whom Ermini was 'in the habit' of hitting; and Emanuele testified to being fearful of his father on the basis of this physical and verbal abuse. These findings evince a 'propensity' for violence and physical abuse and a resulting fear in the children. *Id.* at 104. We therefore hold that the facts found by the district court were sufficient to meet the

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Hague Convention's requirement, by clear and convincing evidence, that the children faced a 'grave risk' of harm because of Ermini's physical abuse."

- [Souratgar v. Lee](#), 720 F.3d 96, 103 (2d Cir. 2013). "Under Article 13(b), a grave risk of harm from repatriation arises in two situations: '(1) where returning the child means sending him to a zone of war, famine, or disease; or (2) in cases of serious abuse or neglect, or extraordinary emotional dependence, when the court in the country of habitual residence, *for whatever reason*, may be incapable or unwilling to give the child adequate protection.' [Blondin IV](#), 238 F.3d at 162 (quotation marks omitted). The potential harm to the child must be severe, and the '[t]he level of risk and danger required to trigger this exception has consistently been held to be very high.' [Norden-Powers v. Beveridge](#), 125 F. Supp. 2d 634, 640 (E.D.N.Y. 2000) (citing cases). The grave risk involves not only the magnitude of the potential harm but also the probability that the harm will materialize. [Van de Sande v. Van de Sande](#), 431 F.3d 567, 570 (7th Cir. 2005)."
- [Turner v. Frowein](#), 253 Conn. 312, 351, 752 A.2d 955 (2000). "We emphasize that we do not disturb or modify the trial court's finding that returning the child to the defendant would expose him to a 'grave' risk of harm, within the meaning of article 13b. Thus, if the trial court remains unable to find any reasonable means of repatriation that would not effectively place the child in the defendant's immediate custody, either expressly or de facto, it should deny the petition under the Hague Convention."
- [Blondin v. Dubois](#), 189 F.3d 240, 249 (2nd Cir. 1999). "Under the circumstances presented, we think it appropriate to remand this matter to the District Court for further consideration of the range of remedies that might allow *both* the return of the children to their home country *and* their protection from harm, pending a custody award in due course by a French court with proper jurisdiction."
- [State v. Vakilzaden](#), 251 Conn. 656, 663, n.8, 742 A.2d 767 (1999). "Thus, a parent who temporarily 'abducts' a child in an effort to safeguard that child from an abusive situation, but seeks appropriate legal redress under § 46b-93 (a) (3) (B) as soon as is feasible under the circumstances, could not meet the necessary mens rea for custodial interference because he or she would have the legal right to take the child to protect him or her. We are confident that our law enforcement authorities and our courts will be sensitive to this reality."

## **Connecticut Trial Court Decisions**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- Dreiling v. Dreiling, Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford at Hartford, Nos. FA-155040055S, FA-154080175S (Apr. 14, 2016) (2016 WL 1728242) (2016 Conn. Super. LEXIS 779). "A Connecticut court may have temporary jurisdiction to make a decision regarding custody if the child is within this state and it is necessary in an emergency to protect the child because the child or a sibling has been under a threat of being abused or mistreated. § 46b-115n(a)(2). If there is no previous child custody determination enforceable under the UCCJEA and a child custody proceeding has not been commenced in a court having jurisdiction under a provision substantially similar to § 46b-115k, § 46b-115l, or § 46b-115m, a child custody determination made pursuant to § 46b-115n will remain in effect until an order is obtained from a court that has jurisdiction under a provision substantially similar to § 46b-115k, § 46b-115l, or § 46b-115m. § 46b-115n(b)."
- Crowley v. Lounsbury, Superior Court, Judicial District of New London, Regional Family Trial Docket at Middletown, No. FA 99-0551913S (Apr. 24, 2003) (2003 Conn. Super. LEXIS 1243) (2003 WL 21040430). "Children need - it is their best interest - to have a custodial parent who is physically and emotionally safe. Implicit in our laws is the notion that one parent must be free from abuse at the hands of the other. State and federal law recognize the legitimacy of domestic violence victims relocating with their children to escape abuse."
- Harliwich v. Harliwich, Superior Court, Judicial District of Tolland at Rockville, No. FA 98-68306 S (Dec. 3, 1998) (1998 Conn. Super. Lexis 3401) (1998 WL 867328). "There was no substantial evidence that the child's return would expose him to physical or psychological harm or otherwise place him in an intolerable situation."
- Pantazatou v. Pantazatos, Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford-New Britain at Hartford, No. FA 960713571S (Sept. 24, 1997) (1997 Conn. Super. LEXIS 2617) (1997 WL 614519). "Did the respondent mother prove by clear and convincing evidence that there was grave risk of psychological harm of the child if returned to Greece? The answer is yes. The Court was clearly convinced that to return the child without the mother would create a grave risk of psychological harm to the child and more particularly to remove Nicole back to Greece without her mother would create greatest risk of serious psychological harm both short and long term."
- Renovales v. Roosa, Superior Court, Judicial District of Hartford-New Britain at Hartford, No. FA 91-0392232 (Sept.

27, 1991) (1991 Conn. Super. Lexis 2215) (1991 WL 204483). "The court finds that the respondent has failed to prove by 'clear and convincing' evidence that the children will be 'exposed' to grave risk of either physical or psychological harm or that they will be placed in an intolerable situation."

### **Other Jurisdictions**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update them to ensure they are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about updating cases.

- [Van de Sande v. Van de Sande](#), 431 F.3d 567, 571 (7th Circ. 2005). "If handing over custody of a child to an abusive parent creates a grave risk of harm to the child, in the sense that the parent may with some nonnegligible probability injure the child, the child should not be handed over, however severely the law of the parent's country might punish such behavior. In such a case, any order divesting the abducting parent of custody would have to be conditioned on the child's being kept out of the custody of the abusing parent until the merits of the custody dispute between the parents could be resolved by the court in the abusive parent's country."
- [Danaipour v. McLarey](#), 386 F.3d 289, 295-296 (1st Cir. 2004). "Having found by clear and convincing evidence that C.D. was sexually abused by her father, the court then went on to conclude, also by clear and convincing evidence that returning the children to Sweden would create a grave risk of psychological harm and an intolerable situation for them."

### **WEST KEY NUMBERS:**

- *Child Custody* #753. Interstate issues. Emergency Jurisdiction
- *Child Custody* #800-830. International Issues

### **DIGESTS:**

- *ALR Digest*: Kidnapping
- *ALR Index*: Abduction and Kidnapping, Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act
- *Connecticut Family Law Citations*  
Chapter 11. Child Custody and Visitation  
§ 11.09. Parental Abduction

### **ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

Encyclopedias and ALRs are available in print at some law library locations and accessible online at all law library locations.

Online databases are available for in-library use. Remote access is not available.

- 56 *A.L.R.Fed.2d* 163, *Construction and Application of Grave Risk of Harm Exception in Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction as Implemented in International Child Abduction Remedies Act*, 42 U.S.C.A. § 11603(e)(2)(A), by Tracy Bateman Farrell, Thomson West, 2011 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 80 *A.L.R.5th* 117, Annotation, *Emergency jurisdiction of court under §§3(a)(3)(ii) and 14(a) of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act and Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act*, 28 U.S.C.A. §§1738A(c)(2)(C)(ii) and 1738A(f), to protect interests of child notwithstanding existence of prior, valid custody decree rendered by another state, by David Carl

Minneman, Thomson West, 2000 (Also available on Westlaw).

- 53 *A.L.R.6th* 419, Annotation, *Construction and Application of Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act's Temporary Emergency Jurisdiction Provision*, by Ann K. Wooster, Thomson West, 2010 (Also available on Westlaw).

### **TEXTS & TREATISES:**

Each of our law libraries own the Connecticut treatises cited. You can [contact](#) us or visit our [catalog](#) to determine which of our law libraries own the other treatises cited or to search for more treatises.

References to online databases refer to in-library use of these databases. Remote access is not available.

- *Nolo's Essential Guide to Child Custody & Support*, by Emily Daskow, NOLO, 2021.  
Chapter 10. Worst Case Scenarios: Kidnapping, Abuse, and Interference With Custody
- *LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law*, Louise Truax, editor, 2025 ed., LexisNexis.  
Chapter 2. Jurisdiction  
§ 2.48. Asserting Temporary Emergency Jurisdiction  
§ 2.49. Providing Notice of Proceedings
- 8 Connecticut Practice Series, *Family Law and Practice with Forms*, 3d ed., by Arnold H. Rutkin, et al., Thomson West, 2010, with 2022-2023 supplement (also available on Westlaw).  
Chapter 40. Jurisdiction to Enter and Enforce Custody Orders  
§ 40:9. Temporary emergency jurisdiction  
§ 40:32. Enforcement jurisdiction under the UCCJEA—Proceedings to take physical custody of a child
- 1 *Child Custody and Visitation Law and Practice*, by Sandra Morgan Little, Matthew Bender, 2025 (also available on Lexis).  
Chapter 4. Interstate Child Custody Jurisdiction under UCCJA, UCCJEA, and PKPA.  
§4.21 Temporary Emergency Jurisdiction
- 4 *Child Custody and Visitation Law and Practice*, by Sandra Morgan Little, Matthew Bender, 2025 (also available on Lexis).  
Chapter 32. International Enforcement of Child Custody  
§32.02 [3] Specific Provisions of the Convention  
[d] Chapter III - Return of the Child (Articles 8-20)
- 1 *Legal Rights of Children*, rev. 3d ed., by Thomas R. Young, 2024-2025 ed., Thomson West (also available on Westlaw).  
Chapter 5. Parental Kidnapping of Children  
§ 5:1. Parental kidnapping of children in general  
§ 5:2. The Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (PKPA) of 1980  
§ 5:3. --Full faith and credit given to child custody determinations  
§ 5:4. --Federal jurisdictional questions  
§ 5:5. --Definitions of terms used in PKPA



Each of our law libraries own the Connecticut treatises cited. You can [contact](#) us or visit our [catalog](#) to determine which of our law libraries own the other treatises cited or to search for more treatises.

References to online databases refer to in-library use of these databases. Remote access is not available.

## § 5:6. --State court child custody consistency tests

- *Handling Child Custody, Abuse, and Adoption Cases 3d* by Ann M. Haralambie, Thomson West, 2009 with 2024-2025 supplement.
  - Chapter 2. Jurisdiction
    - § 2.8 Emergency Jurisdiction (UCCJEA)
    - § 2.21. Emergencies (PKPA)
    - § 2.25. The Hague Convention and ICARA generally
    - § 2:38. Defenses to return—Grave risk (Hague Convention)
    - § 2:39. Defenses to return – Human rights and fundamental freedoms
  - Appendix 2-1. Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act
  - Appendix 2-3. Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980
  - Appendix 2-5. Analysis of Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
  - Appendix 2-6. International Child Abduction Remedies Act
  - Appendix 2-7. Application for Assistance under the Hague Convention on Child Abduction
  - Chapter 19. Interference with Custody and Visitation
    - § 19:25. Defenses
  - Appendix 19-1. Worksheet for Reporting an Abducted Child
  - Appendix 19-2. International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act of 1993
  - Appendix 19-3. Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act
  - Chapter 23. Appeals and Writs
    - § 23:10. Traditional or common law writs: generally – Habeas corpus in child custody matters
    - § 23:33.50. When a discretionary stay merits consideration – Requesting a stay of a child's return to country of habitual residence under the Hague Convention and ICARA

## **LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

- Brenda Hale, Taking Flight—Domestic Violence and Child Abduction, 70 Current Legal Prob. 3, Issue 1 (August 2017).
- Valerie Brummel, *Parental Kidnapping, Criminal Contempt Of Court, and the Double Jeopardy Clause: A Recommendation for State Courts*, 106 Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology 315, Number 2 (Spring 2016).
- Brian Quillen, *The New Face of International Child Abduction: Domestic-Violence Victims and Their Treatment under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*, 49 Texas International Law Journal 621, Number 3 (Summer 2014).



- Laura Theresa Curcio Curry, *On the Border: The Country's Ambiguous Response to Out-of-State Domestic Violence Victims Fleeing Their Abusers*, 13 Holy Cross Journal of Law and Public Policy 9, Number 1 (2009).
- Miranda Kaye, *The Hague Convention and the Flight from Domestic Violence: How Women & Children are Being Returned by Coach & Four*, 13 International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family 191, Number 2 (1999).
- Merle H. Weiner, *Intolerable Situations and Counsel for Children: Following Switzerland's Example in Hague Abduction Cases*, 58 American University Law Review 335, Issue 2 (December 2008).
- Merle H. Weiner, *International Child Abduction & the Escape from Domestic Violence*, 69 Fordham Law Review 593, Number 2 (November 2000).
- Sudha Shetty and Jeffrey L. Edleson, *Adult Domestic Violence in Cases of International Parental Child Abduction*, 11 Violence Against Women 115, Number 1 (January 2005).
- Roxanne Hoegger, *What if She Leaves? Domestic Violence Cases Under the Hague Convention and the Insufficiency of the Undertakings Remedy*, 18 Berkeley Women's Law Journal 181, Number 1 (2003).
- Carol S. Bruch, *The Unmet Needs Of Domestic Violence Victims And Their Children In Hague Child Abduction Convention Cases*, 38 Family Law Quarterly 529, Number 3 (Fall 2004).
- Julia Alanen, *When Human Rights Conflict: Mediating Intl. Parental Kidnapping Disputes Involving the Domestic Violence Defense*, 40 University of Miami Inter-American Law Review 49, Number 1 (Fall 2008).

## Section 5: Custodial Interference

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

### **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to the crime of custodial interference and the tort of custodial interference.

### **SEE ALSO:**

- [Table 5](#): Criminal Custodial Interference

### **DEFINITIONS:**

- **Custodial interference in the first degree: Class D felony.** "(a) A person is guilty of custodial interference in the first degree when he commits custodial interference in the second degree as provided in section 53a-98: (1) Under circumstances which expose the child or person taken or enticed from lawful custody or the child held after a request by the lawful custodian for his return to a risk that his safety will be endangered or his health materially impaired; or (2) by taking, enticing or detaining the child or person out of this state." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [53a-97](#) (2025).
- **Custodial interference in the second degree: Class A misdemeanor.** "A person is guilty of custodial interference in the second degree when: (1) Being a relative of a child who is less than sixteen years old and intending to hold such child permanently or for a protracted period and knowing that he has no legal right to do so, he takes or entices such child from his lawful custodian; (2) knowing that he has no legal right to do so, he takes or entices from lawful custody any incompetent person or any person entrusted by authority of law to the custody of another person or institution; or (3) knowing that he has no legal right to do so, he holds, keeps or otherwise refuses to return a child who is less than sixteen years old to such child's lawful custodian after a request by such custodian for the return of such child." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [53a-98\(a\)](#) (2025).
- **Effects of joint custody:** "We were wrong to conclude that a joint custodian could never, under any scenario, be liable for custodial interference." [State v. Vakilzaden](#), 251 Conn. 656, 664, 742 A.2d 767 (1999).
- **Conspiracy to interfere with custodial relations:** "The requisites of a civil action for conspiracy are: (1) a combination between two or more persons, (2) to do a criminal or an unlawful act or a lawful act by criminal or unlawful means, (3) an act done by one or more of the conspirators pursuant to the scheme and in furtherance of the object, (4) which act results in damage to the plaintiff." [Williams v. Maislen](#), 116 Conn. 433, 437, 165 A. 455 (1933).

## **LEGISLATIVE:**

[Office of Legislative Research](#) reports summarize and analyze the law in effect on the date of each report's publication. Current law may be different from what is discussed in the reports.

- *Moving Out Of State in Violation Of Child Custody Order*, Susan Price-Livingston, Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research Report, [2003-R-0491](#) (June 18, 2003).
- *Custodial Interference*, Susan Price, Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research Report, [2008-R-0644](#) (November 24, 2008).

## **CT STATUTES:**

You can visit your local law library or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website.

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2025)
  - § [53a-97](#). Custodial interference in the first degree: Class D felony.
  - § [53a-98](#). Custodial interference in the second degree: Class A misdemeanor.
  - § [46b-16](#). Petition to Superior Court for ex parte order re temporary care and custody of child when parent arrested for custodial interference. Duration of order.

## **JURY INSTRUCTIONS:**

- CT Judicial Branch Criminal Jury Instructions
  - [6.6 Custodial Interference](#)
    - 6.6-1. Custodial Interference in the First Degree
      - § 53a-97
    - 6.6-2. Custodial Interference in the Second Degree
      - § 53a-98 (a) (1)
    - 6.6-3. Custodial Interference in the Second Degree
      - § 53a-98 (a) (2)
    - 6.6-4. Custodial Interference in the Second Degree
      - § 53a-98 (a) (3)

## **FORMS:**

- 5 COA 799, *Cause of action against noncustodial parent for interference with custody rights to child*, by Don C. Smith, Jr., Thomson West, 1984 (Also available on Westlaw).
  - IV Appendix
  - § 21 Sample Complaint

## **CASE LAW:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.

- [State v. Lori T.](#), 345 Conn. 44, 60-62, 282 A.3d 1233 (2022). "To the extent that the Appellate Court suggests that § 53a-98 (a) (3) imposes a requirement that an individual 'compel' a child to return to his or her lawful custodian, we disagree. A 'compel' requirement is too strong of a characterization of an individual's obligation under the statute. Rather, we conclude that an individual is required to use efforts commensurate with the situation to satisfy the requirements of § 53a-98 (a) (3). The effort required in any given situation, and whether an individual has satisfied the mandates of § 53a-98 (a) (3), will vary and be dependent on any number of facts and considerations, including, without limitation, the age of the child and the relationship between the individual and the child. As the defendant conceded in her brief and at oral argument, parents of a

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young child may have an obligation to physically pick up their recalcitrant child and carry the child to the car, buckle the child in a car seat, drive the child to a mutual exchange location, or take some other action to physically return the child to his or her lawful custodian. Although parents of an older child may not have the same ability to physically move their child, the acknowledgment that parents of a young child may need to physically return the child highlights the obligation of a parent to do something to effectuate the return of the child, regardless of the child's age. For parents of an older child, there may be fewer coercive measures at their disposal, beyond verbal commands, but there is still an obligation to do something to effectuate the return of the child. However, the successful return of the child to his or her lawful custodian may not be necessary to satisfy the requirements of § 53a-98 (a) (3). See footnote 2 of this opinion. Because, as we will explain, the defendant took no steps to return the children to their father, we need not decide, in this case, the more difficult question of what additional steps an individual may be required to take when he or she has taken some action to return the children but the children do not comply."

- [Bouchard v. Sundberg](#), 80 Conn. App. 180, 201-02, 834 A.2d 744 (2003). "In [Vakilzaden](#), the Supreme Court considered for the first time whether the tort of child abduction or custodial interference applied to a parent who had joint custody of the subject child. [State v. Vakilzaden](#), supra, 251 Conn. at 662. That case did not, as the plaintiff argues, abrogate the requirement of an extralegal taking of custody for the tort of custodial interference. The Supreme Court expressly decided that a parent enjoying joint custody could be liable for the crime of custodial interference and, in that respect, overruled [Marshak](#). See id., at 664."
- [Streeter v. Bruderhof Communities in New York, Inc.](#), Superior Court, Judicial District of Waterbury, Complex Litigation, No. X01 CV-02-0179481-S (Nov. 3, 2003) (48 Conn. Supp. 554, 554-555) (36 Conn. L. Rptr. 69). "This action concerns the claimed abduction of the plaintiff's two (2) minor children by the children's father, the plaintiff's ex-husband. The claim is that he, with the assistance of the other named defendants, removed the children from the United States to Egypt via Ireland. The other named defendants are the owner and/or carrier for the international flight, a global aviation and manufacturing business, and a private airline charter service. The mother and the father share joint legal custody; the plaintiff mother has physical custody. The complaint asserts four (4) causes of action: 1) Interference with Custodial Relations; 2) Negligence; 3) False Imprisonment; and 4) Emotional Distress."

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- [State v. Vakilzaden](#), 251 Conn. 656, 662, 742 A.2d 767 (1999). “. . . a joint custodian is not inherently immune from criminal prosecution based solely on his or her status as joint custodian if the state can prove all elements of the custodial interference statute, including both knowledge and intent, beyond a reasonable doubt.”
- [Brown v. Brown](#), 195 Conn. 98, 119-120, 486 A.2d 1116 (1985). “Geared as the PKPA is toward establishing national jurisdictional standards that endeavor to reduce interstate child abductions, the application of the PKPA to this case initially turns on the definition of a ‘custody determination.’ We believe that the orders of the Florida court which, in effect, generated this Connecticut action, fall squarely within the PKPA definition of a ‘custody determination.’ 28 U.S.C. § 1738A (b) (3).”
- [Agnello v. Becker](#), 184 Conn. 421, 432-433, 440 A.2d 172 (1981). “The defendant also claims that the ‘reprehensible conduct’ of the plaintiff, in taking the child from the home of the defendant and allegedly ‘concealing’ her from the defendant, supports the trial court’s conclusion that the New Jersey decree should not be recognized . . . . We initially note that this provision [Conn. Gen. Stats. §46b-98(a) and N.J. Stat. Ann. §2A:34-36(a)] does not set forth any new bases for jurisdiction. Secondly, under this section, the determination of whether the plaintiff’s conduct was reprehensible was more properly a question for the New Jersey court. Thirdly, we point out that the act does not *require* a state to decline to exercise its jurisdiction over the matter for such conduct.”

**WEST KEY  
NUMBERS:**

- *Kidnapping*
  - 10. In general
  - 13. —Validity
  - 20. —Want of consent
  - 23. Criminal custodial interference
  - 24. —In general
  - 25. —Intent
  - 26. —Consent or wishes of child

**DIGESTS:**

- *ALR Digest: Kidnapping*
- *Connecticut Family Law Citations*  
Chapter 11. Child Custody and Visitation  
§ 11.09. Parental Abduction

**ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

- 1 *Am Jur 2d* Abduction and Kidnapping, Thomson West, 2016 (Also available on Westlaw).  
II. Abduction or Kidnapping by Parent or Person In Loco Parentis  
§ 35. Parental rights, custody, and kidnapping  
§ 36. Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act

Encyclopedias and ALRs are available in print at some law library locations and accessible online at all law library locations.

Online databases are available for in-library use. Remote access is not available.

## § 37. Federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act

- 59 *Am Jur 2d* Parent and Child, Thomson West, 2023 (Also available on Westlaw).  
Tort Actions Between Parents or Against Third Persons
  - § 118. Enticement or abduction of child; interference with custody
  - § 119. Action by child
  - § 120 –Against third person for act of parent
- 51 *CJS* Kidnapping, Thomson West, 2021 (Also available on Westlaw).
  - § 32. Parental status as defense
  - § 33. Elements of custodial interference statutes; federal statutes
  - § 34. Liability of third party who assists in kidnaping child
- 67A *CJS* Parent and Child, Thomson West, 2023 (Also available on Westlaw).
  - § 331. – Action for loss of consortium
  - § 332. Respective rights of father and mother to action for injury to child
  - § 333. Parent's waiver of or estoppel to assert right to recover for injury to child; waiver by child
  - § 334. Defenses to parent's action for injury to child
  - § 335. — Contributory negligence of parent
  - § 336. – Contributory negligence of child
- 49 *A.L.R.4th* 7, *Liability of Legal or Natural Parent, or One Who Aids and Abets, For Damages Resulting From Abduction Of Own Child*, by William B. Johnson, Thomson West, 1986 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 20 *A.L.R.4th* 823, *Kidnapping or Related Offense by Taking or Removing of Child by or Under Authority of Parent or One In Loco Parentis*, by William B. Johnson, Thomson West, 1983 (Also available on Westlaw).
- 5 *COA* 799, *Cause of Action Against Noncustodial Parent for Interference with Custody Rights to Child*, by Don C. Smith Jr., Thomson West, 1984 (Also available on Westlaw).
  - I. Introduction
  - II. Substantive law overview
    - a. Prima Facie Case
    - b. Defenses
    - c. Parties
  - III. Practice and procedure
    - d. In general
      - § 11. Advantages of action over other remedies
    - e. Plaintiff's proof
    - f. Recovery
  - IV. Appendix

§ 20. Sample case  
§ 21. Sample complaint

**TEXTS &  
TREATISES:**

Each of our law libraries own the Connecticut treatises cited. You can [contact](#) us or visit our [catalog](#) to determine which of our law libraries own the other treatises cited or to search for more treatises.

References to online databases refer to in-library use of these databases. Remote access is not available.

- *Nolo's Essential Guide to Child Custody & Support*, by Emily Daskow, NOLO, 2021.  
Chapter 10. Worst Case Scenarios: Kidnapping, Abuse, and Interference With Custody
- 8 Connecticut Practice Series, *Family Law and Practice with Forms*, 3d ed., by Arnold H. Rutkin, et al., Thomson West, 2010, with 2022-2023 supplement (also available on Westlaw).  
Chapter 43. Enforcement of Custody and Visitation Orders  
§ 43:11. Criminal sanctions  
§ 43:12. Tort claims
- 1 *Legal Rights of Children*, rev. 3d ed., by Thomas R. Young, 2024-2025 ed., Thomson West (also available on Westlaw).  
Chapter 5. Parental Kidnapping of Children  
§ 5:13. Tort remedies for the child victim in child snatching cases
- 1 *Child Custody and Visitation Law and Practice*, by Sandra Morgan Little, Matthew Bender, 2025 (also available on Lexis).  
Chapter 5. Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments  
PART D. Enforcement Under State Tort and Criminal Law  
§ 5.40. Tort remedy for child-snatching  
§ 5.41. State Criminal Statutes: Custodial Interference
- *Restatement of the Law of Torts 2d*, American Law Institute, Thomson West, 1977 (also available on Westlaw).  
Chapter 33- Relation of Parent and Child  
§ 700. Causing minor child to leave home or not return to home
- *Building a Parenting Agreement that Works*, by Mimi Lyster Zimmelman, NOLO, 2022.  
Chapter 8. Serious Situations  
Issue 28: Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and Child Neglect - Require Supervised Visitation  
Issue 31: Denying Access to the Children  
Chapter 16. State and Federal Laws Affecting Child Custody  
Interference With Custody  
International Custody Disputes

Each of our law libraries own the Connecticut treatises cited. You can [contact](#) us or visit our [catalog](#) to determine which of our law libraries own the other treatises cited or to search for more treatises.

References to online databases refer to in-library use of these databases. Remote access is not available.

- *International Family Law Deskbook 2d*, by Ann Laquer Estin, American Bar Association, 2016.

Chapter 6. International Child Abduction

- § 6.3. Using Criminal and Tort Law Remedies
  - International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act
  - Immigration Sanctions

- *Handling Child Custody, Abuse, and Adoption Cases 3d* by Ann M. Haralambie, Thomson West, 2009 with 2024-2025 supplement.

Chapter 19. Interference with Custody and Visitation

- § 19:1. Child snatching
- § 19:2. Denial of visitation
- § 19:3. Prevention
- § 19:4. Steps to take to locate an abducted child
- § 19:5. Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act
- § 19:6. Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act
- § 19:7. Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act
- § 19:8. Hague convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction
- § 19:12. Restrictions on visitation or travel
- § 19:13. Passports and visas
- § 19:15. Punitive modification
- § 19:16. Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act
- § 19:17. Federal parent locator service
- § 19:18. International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act of 1993
- § 19:19. State statutes
- § 19:20. Theories
- § 19:21. Plaintiffs
- § 19:22. Defendants
- § 19:23. Jurisdiction
- § 19:24. Remedies
- § 19:25. Defenses
- Appendix 19-1. Worksheet for Reporting an Abducted Child
- Appendix 19-2. International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act of 1993
- Appendix 19-3. Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act

**LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

- Jennifer Toritto Leonardo. *International Parental Kidnapping: An Overview of Federal Resources to Assist Your Investigation and Prosecution*, 66 United States Attorneys' Bulletin 159, Number 1 (January 2018).
- Ashley N. Dowd. *International Parental Kidnapping: Combatting Abduction through Prevention*. 8 Creighton International and Comparative Law Journal 136, Number 2 (May 2017)



Table 4: Tort of Custodial Interference or Child Abduction - Key Connecticut Cases

Tort of Custodial Interference or Child Abduction: Key Connecticut Cases	
<a href="#">Mirjavadi v. Vakilzadeh</a> , 128 Conn. App. 61, 76-77, 18 A.3d 591 (2011), affirmed by 310 Conn. 176, 74 A.3d 1278 (2013).	"...the court's conclusion that the concern over possible abduction was 'wither[ing]' and that, as a consequence, the <i>foreseeability</i> of abduction was 'decreasing' is not supportable. The question is not whether the risk of abduction was low or had diminished over time, but whether it remained foreseeable that Saba could be abducted by her father. See <a href="#">Lodge v. Arett Sales Corp.</a> , 246 Conn. 563, 572, 717 A.2d 215 (1998)."
<a href="#">Bouchard v. Sundberg</a> , 80 Conn. App. 180, 201-202, 834 A.2d 744 (2003).	"In <a href="#">Vakilzaden</a> , the Supreme Court considered for the first time whether the tort of child abduction or custodial interference applied to a parent who had joint custody of the subject child . . . . That case did not, as the plaintiff argues, abrogate the requirement of an extralegal taking of custody for the tort of custodial interference. The Supreme Court expressly decided that a parent enjoying joint custody could be liable for the crime of custodial interference and, in that respect, overruled <a href="#">Marshak</a> ."
<a href="#">State v. Vakilzaden</a> , 251 Conn. 656, 662-663, 742 A.2d 767 (1999).	"The state argues that we should overrule <a href="#">Marshak</a> and allow joint custodians to be held criminally liable if, in abducting their own child, their intent is to deprive the other joint custodian of his or her equal parental rights permanently or for a protracted period of time in accordance with General Statutes § 53a-98. We agree that <a href="#">Marshak</a> should be overruled and that a joint custodian is not inherently immune from criminal prosecution based solely on his or her status as joint custodian if the state can prove all elements of the custodial interference statute, including both knowledge and intent, beyond a reasonable doubt."
Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update the cases before you rely on them. Updating case law means checking to see if the cases are still good law. You can <a href="#">contact your local law librarian</a> to learn about the tools available to you to update cases.	

Table 5: Criminal Custodial Interference

Criminal Custodial Interference	
<p>Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">53a-97</a> (2025)</p>	<p><b>Custodial interference in the first degree: Class D felony.</b> "(a) A person is guilty of custodial interference in the first degree when he commits custodial interference in the second degree as provided in section 53a-98: (1) Under circumstances which expose the child or person taken or enticed from lawful custody or the child held after a request by the lawful custodian for his return to a risk that his safety will be endangered or his health materially impaired; or (2) by taking, enticing or detaining the child or person out of this state."</p>
<p>Conn. Gen. Stat. § <a href="#">53a-98</a> (2025)</p> <div> <p>You can visit your local law library or search the most recent <a href="#">statutes</a> and <a href="#">public acts</a> on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are using the most up-to-date statutes.</p> </div>	<p><b>Custodial interference in the second degree: Class A misdemeanor.</b> "(a) A person is guilty of custodial interference in the second degree when: (1) Being a relative of a child who is less than sixteen years old and intending to hold such child permanently or for a protracted period and knowing that he has no legal right to do so, he takes or entices such child from his lawful custodian; (2) knowing that he has no legal right to do so, he takes or entices from lawful custody any incompetent person or any person entrusted by authority of law to the custody of another person or institution; or (3) knowing that he has no legal right to do so, he holds, keeps or otherwise refuses to return a child who is less than sixteen years old to such child's lawful custodian after a request by such custodian for the return of such child."</p>
<p>Legislative:</p> <div> <p><a href="#">Office of Legislative Research</a> reports summarize and analyze the law in effect on the date of each report's publication. Current law may be different from what is discussed in the reports.</p> </div>	<p><i>Attempted Kidnapping</i>, George Coppolo, Connecticut General Assembly, Office of Legislative Research Report, <a href="#">2004-R-0272</a> (February 27, 2004).</p> <p>" . . . in 1995, the legislature increased the penalty, from a class A misdemeanor to a class D felony for 'detaining' a child under 16 out of state when, knowing he has no legal right to do so, someone refuses to return the child to his lawful custodian after the custodian requests his return (PA 95-206)(See CGS § 53a-97). Generally, refusing to return a child after a request is second-degree custodial interference, a class A misdemeanor. Prior law it first-degree custodial interference, a class D felony, only for 'taking' or 'enticing the child out of state.'"</p>
<p><b>TREATISE:</b></p> <div> <p>You can <a href="#">contact</a> us or visit our <a href="#">catalog</a> to determine which of our law libraries own the treatises cited.</p> <p>References to online databases refer to in-library use of these databases.</p> </div>	<p>1 <i>Child Custody and Visitation Law &amp; Practice</i>, by Sandra Morgan Little, Matthew Bender, 2025 (also available on Lexis).</p> <p>Chapter 5. Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments</p> <p>§ 5.41. State criminal statutes: Custodial interference</p>

## Section 6: Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

### **SCOPE:**

Bibliographic resources relating to the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and parental kidnapping of an Indian child.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

- **Indian child:** "means any unmarried person who is under age eighteen and is either (a) a member of an Indian tribe or (b) is eligible for membership in an Indian tribe and is the biological child of a member of an Indian tribe;" [25 U.S.C. § 1903](#)(4).
- **Indian tribe:** "means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community of Indians recognized as eligible for the services provided to Indians by the Secretary because of their status as Indians, including any Alaska Native village as defined in section 1602(c) of title 43;" [25 U.S.C. § 1903](#)(8).
- **Exclusive jurisdiction:** "An Indian tribe shall have jurisdiction exclusive as to any State over any child custody proceeding involving an Indian child who resides or is domiciled within the reservation of such tribe, except where such jurisdiction is otherwise vested in the State by existing Federal law. Where an Indian child is a ward of a tribal court, the Indian tribe shall retain exclusive jurisdiction, notwithstanding the residence or domicile of the child." [25 U.S.C. § 1911](#).

### **GUIDELINES:**

- Federal Register: [Guidelines for State Courts and Agencies in Indian Child Custody Proceedings](#), 80 Fed. Reg. 10146 (February 25, 2015).

### **STATUTES AND U.S. CODE:**

You can visit your local law library, [search the most recent U.S. Code](#) on the U.S. Code website or search the most recent [statutes](#) and [public acts](#) on the Connecticut General Assembly website to confirm that you are accessing the most up-to-date laws.

- Indian Child Welfare Act, [25 U.S.C. §§ 1901](#) et seq.  
[§ 1920](#). *Improper removal of child from custody; declination of jurisdiction; forthwith return of child; danger exception.* "Where any petitioner in an Indian child custody proceeding before a State court has improperly removed the child from custody of the parent or Indian custodian or has improperly retained custody after a visit or other temporary relinquishment of custody, the court shall decline jurisdiction over such petition and shall forthwith return the child to his parent or Indian custodian unless returning the child to his parent or custodian would subject the child to a substantial and immediate danger or threat of such danger."  
[§ 1921](#). *Higher State or Federal standard applicable to protect rights of parent or Indian custodian of Indian child.* "In any case where State or Federal law applicable

to a child custody proceeding under State or Federal law provides a higher standard of protection to the rights of the parent or Indian custodian of an Indian child than the rights provided under this subchapter, the State or Federal court shall apply the State or Federal standard."

§ [1922](#). *Emergency removal or placement of child; termination; appropriate action.* "Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prevent the emergency removal of an Indian child who is a resident of or is domiciled on a reservation, but temporarily located off the reservation, from his parent or Indian custodian or the emergency placement of such child in a foster home or institution, under applicable State law, in order to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child. The State authority, official, or agency involved shall insure that the emergency removal or placement terminates immediately when such removal or placement is no longer necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child and shall expeditiously initiate a child custody proceeding subject to the provisions of this subchapter, transfer the child to the jurisdiction of the appropriate Indian tribe, or restore the child to the parent or Indian custodian, as may be appropriate."

- Conn. Gen. Stat. (2025)  
[Chapter 815p](#) – *Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act.*  
*Application to Indian tribes.* "A child custody proceeding that pertains to an Indian child as defined in the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 USC Section 1901 et seq., is not subject to this chapter to the extent that it is governed by the Indian Child Welfare Act." Conn. Gen. Stat. § [46b-115c](#) (2025).

### **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

- H.R.Rep. No. 1386, 95<sup>th</sup> Cong., 2d Sess. 25 (1978). Reprinted in 1978 U.S.C.C.A.N. 7530, 7548.  
"Section 110 [25 U.S.C. §1920] establishes a 'clean hands' doctrine with respect to petitions in State court for the custody of an Indian child by a person who improperly has such child in physical custody. It is aimed at those persons who improperly secure or improperly retain custody of the child without the consent of the parent or Indian custodian and without the sanction of law. It is intended to bar such person from taking advantage of their wrongful conduct in a subsequent petition for custody. The child is to be returned to the parent or Indian custodian by the court unless such return would result in substantial and immediate physical damage or threat of physical danger to the child. It is not intended that any such showing be by or on behalf of the wrongful petitioner."

### **OLR REPORTS:**

- Taylorann Vibert, [Indian Child Welfare Act](#), OLR Research Report No. 2024-R-0060 (April 18, 2024).

### **REGULATIONS:**

You can search or browse the most recent C.F.R. on the [e-CFR website](#).

- Indian Child Welfare Act, [25 C.F.R. § 23.1 – 23.4](#) (2022)

### **DCF POLICY MANUAL:**

- Chapter 21: Specialized Child Welfare Subject Matter (effective January 2, 2019)  
[21-17](#). Native American Families
- Chapter 31: Administrative Issues (**no longer in effect**, was effective December 15, 2005)  
[31-8-14](#). Native American Families

### **CASE LAW:**

Once you have identified useful cases, it is important to update them to ensure they are still good law. You can [contact your local law librarian](#) to learn about updating cases.

- [In re O.C.](#), 5 Cal. App. 5th 1173, 1186, n.11, 210 Cal. Rptr. 3d 467 (2016). "The BIA's guidelines are instructive but not binding on state courts."
- [D.E.D. v. State](#), 704 P.2d 774, 780 (Alaska 1985). "Thus, as the State notes, there was nothing in R.S.'s petition which demonstrated that there was any basis for declining jurisdiction under either § 1913 or § 1920."

**WEST KEY  
NUMBERS:**

- *Indians* #126-149. Protection of persons and personal rights; Domestic Relations
- *Indians* #238-241. Actions. Jurisdiction

**DIGESTS:**

**ENCYCLOPEDIAS:**

Encyclopedias and ALRs are available in print at some law library locations and accessible online at all law library locations.

Online databases are available for in-library use. Remote access is not available.

- *ALR Digest*: Indians #136 Custody
- 41 *Am Jur 2d* Indians; Native Americans, Thomson West, 2015 (Also available on Westlaw).
  - VII. Domestic Relations of Indians, Indian Tribes, and Indian Children
  - B. Indian Child Welfare and Custody; Indian Child Welfare Act
    - § 99. Purpose and Validity of Indian Child Welfare Act;
    - § 100. Role of tribe under ICWA
    - § 101. Applicability of the ICWA
    - § 102. Indian child and tribe under the ICWA
    - § 103. Rules of construction for ICWA
    - § 104. Exclusive Jurisdiction of tribal court under ICWA
    - § 105. Concurrent jurisdiction of tribal court and state court
    - § 106. Transfer of proceedings to tribal court
    - § 107. Full faith and credit
- 42 *CJS* Indians, Thomson West, 2017 (Also available on Westlaw).
  - XI. Domestic Relations of Indians, Tribes and Indian Children
  - §§ 138 – 153- Child Welfare and Custody; Indian Child Welfare Act
- 19 *Federal Procedure, Lawyers Edition*, Thomson West, 2019 (Also available on Westlaw).
  - Chapter 46. Indians and Indian Affairs.
  - VII. Indian Domestic Relations and Social Welfare Proceedings
    - B. Child Custody Proceedings under Indian Child Welfare Act
      - § 46:432. Exclusive jurisdiction of tribes under Indian Child Welfare Act
      - § 46:435. State court's declining jurisdiction upon improper removal of child from custody under Indian Child Welfare Act

**TEXTS &  
TREATISES:**

- *LexisNexis Practice Guide: Connecticut Family Law*, Louise Truax, editor, 2025 ed., LexisNexis.
  - § 2.50. Applying the UCCJEA to Native Americans
- 4 *Child Custody and Visitation Law and Practice*, by Sandra Morgan Little, Matthew Bender, 2025 (also available on Lexis).
  - Chapter 29. The Indian Child Welfare Act and Laws Affecting Indian Juveniles

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References to online databases refer to in-library use of these databases. Remote access is not available.

- § 29.01. Introduction
- § 29.02. Domestic relations law and Indians: General Principles
- § 29.03. Indian Child Welfare Act: Policy and Legislative History
- § 29.04. Indian Child Welfare Act: General application
- § 29.05. Involuntary child custody proceedings
- § 29.06. Voluntary child custody proceedings
- § 29.07. Placement of Indian children
- § 29.08. Post trial matters
- § 29.09. Forms
- § 29.10. Bibliography

- 1 *Restatement of the Law, The Law of American Indians*, Thomson West, 2022 (also available on Westlaw).
  - Chapter 3 State-Tribal Relations
    - Subchapter 2- The Indian Child Welfare Act
      - Reporter's Introductory Notes
        - § 38 Application of the Indian Child Welfare Act
        - § 39 Tribal Jurisdiction over Indian Child-Welfare Matters
        - § 40 State-Court Jurisdiction
        - § 41 Obligation to Notify Indian Child's Parents, Custodians, and Indian Tribes
        - § 42 Right to Intervene in State-Court Indian, Child-Welfare Matters
        - § 43 Dismissal of Indian Child-Welfare Matters When Tribe Has Exclusive Jurisdiction
        - § 44 Transfer of Indian Child-Welfare Matters When Tribal and State Courts Share Concurrent Jurisdiction
        - § 45 Termination of the Rights of an Indian Parent
- *Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law*, LexisNexis, 2012, with 2023 supplement.
  - Chapter 11 Indian Child Welfare Act
    - § 11.01 Legislative History and Purpose
    - § 11.02 The Scope of ICWA: Threshold Requirements
    - § 11.03 Jurisdiction and Enforcement of Judgements
    - § 11.04 Procedural Protections in State Court
    - § 11.05 Substantive Rights of the Child, Tribe and Parent
    - § 11.06 Constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act
    - § 11.07 The Existing Indian Family Doctrine
    - § 11.08 Relation of ICWA to the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997
    - § 11.09 Relation of ICWA to State Laws Protecting Indian Children

**LAW REVIEWS:**

Public access to law review databases is available on-site at each of our [law libraries](#).

- Ann Laquer Estin, *Equal Protection and the Indian Child Welfare Act: States, Tribal Nations, and Family Law*, 35 Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers 201 (2022).
- Joy Barber, *Race to Jurisdiction: Forum Determination in DV-Related Child Custody Actions When Survivors Flee across Reservation Lines*, 82 Montana Law Review 259 (2021).
- Yablon, Marcia, *The Indian Child Welfare Act Amendments Of 2003*, Family Law Quarterly, Volume 38, Number 3, (Fall 2004) p. 689. Special Issue Symposium on International Law.

**WEBSITE:**

- U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs [Indian Child Welfare Act](#)