

## How to Obtain a Custody Order:

- Consult with a private attorney.
- Obtain assistance at the Alameda County Superior Court Self-Help Center, located at the Hayward Courthouse:

Phone: (510) 272-1393.

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)

## Other Resources for Custody Issues and Missing Children

### Alameda County Family Justice Center

Child Abduction Unit Coordinator

(510) 271-1565

### Alameda County Bar Association

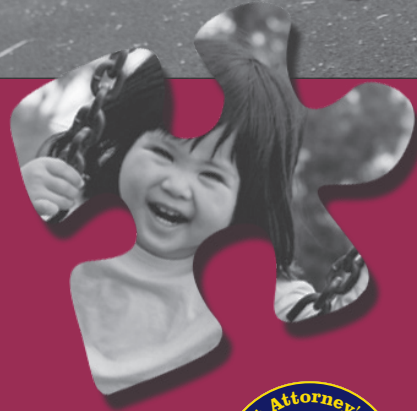
Lawyer Referral Service: (510) 302-2222

**Family Violence Law Center:** (510) 208-0220  
(crisis line) (510) 208-0255

[www.missingkids.org](http://www.missingkids.org)

[www.cirinc.org/abduction/resources.html](http://www.cirinc.org/abduction/resources.html)

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Alameda County  
District Attorney's Office  
1225 Fallon Street, Room 900  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 272-6222

# Alameda County District Attorney's Office



# Child Abduction Unit

Pamela Y. Price,  
District Attorney

## Alameda County District Attorney's Office Child Abduction Unit

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

### Are You a Victim of Child Abduction?

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

- A **right to custody** may exist with or without a court order. Generally, the *biological mother* of a child has a right to custody. The *biological father* has a right to custody if he is/was married to the child's mother, lives with the mother and child, signed a voluntary declaration of paternity, or has obtained court orders giving him custody rights. People who have obtained legal guardianship of a child also have a right to custody.
- A **right to visitation** may only be based on a court order.
- A person's name on a birth certificate or payment of child support alone does not create a right to custody or visitation.

## How Can the District Attorney's Office Help You?

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

We may participate in your case, at our discretion, through the civil court, the criminal court, or both courts.

Because our concern is to protect both custodial and visitation rights, and the children involved, we may decline to handle cases involving minor custody or visitation disputes. Other civil remedies may be available to you.

Please note that the District Attorney's Office can only prosecute your case if there is an underlying criminal violation.

We represent the people of the State of California, not the individual parent, guardian or child.



## What Should You Do if You are a Victim of Child Abduction?

If you are a resident of Alameda County, contact the Child Abduction Unit at (510) 271-1565 for more information and to schedule an appointment to discuss your case.

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

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

If your case involves an international child abduction, contact 1-800-407-4744 or email [AbductionQuestions@state.gov](mailto:AbductionQuestions@state.gov).

### If You are a Victim of Domestic Violence:

If you are concealing your child from the other parent for the safety of yourself or your child, you **must** file a "Good Cause Report" with the District Attorney's Office Child Abduction Unit within ten days of concealment. You may make the "Good Cause Report" by calling (510) 267-8854. You must also commence custody proceedings, and keep the District Attorney's Office advised of your address.

