

## Child custody laws and parental abduction

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Following the latest reports about the child snatch with *60 Minutes* and Sally Faulkner in Lebanon, the reality of parental abduction and child custody laws is being brought to the surface for some parents. As more cases of parental abduction come to light in Australia the importance of informing parents, particularly those facing a custody battle, of ways to avoid seeing themselves in the same position is growing.

A recent news report by *The Australian* (linked below) saw four year old Cameron abducted by his mother and taken to Zimbabwe following their separation. Finally returned home to his father at the age of nine, sadly it only occurred as a result of the death of Cameron's mother.

Cameron's father told *The Australian* how at the time he was stuck in a '*fog of confusion*' "*because you've no idea what you're supposed to do*". *The Australian* has noted that

*'fewer than the 114 children taken from Australia during custody disputes in the past financial year have returned.'*

Are you currently going through a divorce where children are involved? Are you unsure of your child custody rights and fear that your child may or has already been abducted by your ex-partner? You should seek custody advice from our divorce and child custody lawyers who can aid you in preventing or retrieving your child/children. Our Accredited Family Law Specialists are able to look at the best outcome for you and give you custody advice as to your legal rights and entitlements to prevent you becoming part of the statistic.

**For legal advice in relation to child custody laws, contact us on **1800 300 170** or email us at [familylaw@matthewsfolbigg.com.au](mailto:familylaw@matthewsfolbigg.com.au).**

### **Disclaimer**

*Family law situations can be complex and sometimes they can involve serious issues. Information outlined is proposed to provide general guidance only. Due to the seriousness of legal matters as well as the uniqueness of your individual situation, professional advice should be sought. For advice, please contact one of our Family Lawyers.*

**If you wish to read the article by *The Australian*, the link is as follows:**

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/after-child-abduction-fatherson-reunion-born-out-of-sorrow/news-story/a9979241c7fd6619fbb56a6a13ad6cf1>