

2015 Annual Report on International Parental Child Abduction – Supplemental Data

Following [publication](#) of the [2015 Annual Report on International Parental Child Abduction](#), the Department of State received feedback from families, members of Congress, and non-governmental organizations calling for further explanation of the data presented in the report. In the chart that follows, the Department of State provides the requested data in a more detailed and accessible format. The Executive Summary explains the contents of each column.

Executive Summary

**Indicates data required by the Sean and David Goldman International Parental Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act (ICAPRA) in the Annual Report on International Parental Child Abduction*

Column A, Country/Area: Countries or Areas in which there were five or more pending abduction cases in Calendar Year 2014 (CY 2014). Includes partners with the United States under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Parental Child Abduction (in bold print) as well as non-Convention partners.

Column B, Type of Case: Left-behind parents are seeking the return of their child to the United States (abduction) or left-behind parents are seeking visitation with their child (access). A few countries or areas may include both Convention and non-Convention cases, which are denoted as Convention case (C) or Non-Convention case (NC).

Column C, Total Number of Cases Open at Any Point in CY 2014 [Columns E+F+G]: Includes all cases open during CY 2014, including cases that were closed and/or resolved in 2014. This represents the total number of cases CI worked on in CY 2014.

Column D, New Cases Reported to CI at Any Point in CY 2014*: The number of cases newly opened in CY 2014.

Column E, Cases Still Open as of December 31, 2014: The number of open cases at the end of the reporting period for the 2015 Annual Report.

Column F, Cases Closed at Any Point in CY 2014: Any case closed during the period from January 1 through December 31, 2014. Information on when and why the United States Central Authority (USCA) closes cases can be found [here](#).

Columns G and H, Cases Resolved (per ICAPRA definition) in CY 2014*:

- Column G: Number of cases resolved (see Figure 2, on page 6 of the [2015 Annual Report on International Parental Child Abduction](#) for criteria constituting a resolved case, per definitions in the [Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 \(ICAPRA\)](#)).
- Column H: Percentage, calculated by dividing the number of resolved cases in CY 2014 (Column G) by the total abduction or access cases, as appropriate, open at any point in that country in CY 2014 (Column C).

Column I, Cases the Office of Children’s Issues (CI) Transmitted to a Foreign Central Authority (FCA) and Column J, Cases the FCA Did Not Submit to the Judicial or Administrative Authorities*: This applies to Convention and bilateral procedures countries only; non-Convention and non-bilateral procedure countries will show as N/A. Please see Appendix II in the [2015 Annual Report on International Parental Child Abduction](#) for reasons cases are delayed to judicial or administrative authorities.

Column K, Number of Non-Convention Cases Filed with a Competent Judicial or Administrative Authority for Over 12 months as of 12/31/14: Number of cases filed with a competent authority in a non-Convention country on or before December 31, 2014 regarding a minor child abducted to or wrongfully retained in that country.

Column L, Cases Unresolved (per ICAPRA definition) as of 12/31/14*: Per ICAPRA’s definition, an unresolved abduction case means an abduction case that remains unresolved for a period that exceeds 12 months after the date on which the completed application for return of the child is submitted for determination to the judicial or administrative authority, as applicable, in the country in which the child is located.¹

Most non-Convention cases do not meet ICAPRA’s definition of an unresolved abduction case. Per 22 U.S.C. 9101, an unresolved abduction case is one “that remains unresolved for a period that exceeds 12 months after the date on which the

¹ [22 U.S.C. § 9101](#)

completed application for return of the child is submitted for determination to the judicial or administrative authority...”, with “application” defined as “the formal request by the Central Authority of the United States to the Central Authority of such country requesting the return of an abducted child....” When parents use the legal system of a non-Convention country, they are likely participating in a proceeding for custody of the child, which may not involve the return of the child to the United States, rather than submitting an application for return of the child for determination to the judicial or administrative authority. Therefore, the Department does not consider a custody proceeding to be an unresolved abduction case in a non-Convention country, unless there was also a formal request for return. Such non-Convention cases may be reflected in Column K, Number of Non-Convention Cases Filed with a Competent Judicial or Administrative Authority for Over 12 months as of 12/31/14.

Columns M and N, Of all Cases Unresolved (per ICAPRA definition) as of 12/31/14, those Unresolved due to Poor Law Enforcement Efforts*:

- Column M: Number of unresolved cases in which law enforcement authorities have:
 - not located the abducted child;
 - failed to undertake serious efforts to locate the abducted child; and
 - failed to enforce a return order rendered by the judicial or administrative authorities of such country.
- Column N: Percentage, calculated by dividing the number of unresolved cases due to poor law enforcement efforts (Column M) by the total number of unresolved cases in that country as of December 31, 2014 (Column L).

Column O, Number of Open Cases Affecting Military Parents as of 12/31/14: Any case in which the left-behind parent was serving outside of the United States in the United States Armed Forces at the time of the child’s abduction or wrongful retention.

Column P, Number of Unresolved Cases (per ICAPRA definition) Affecting Military Parents as of 12/31/14*: Per ICAPRA’s definitions, an unresolved case affecting a military parent. More information on these numbers can be found in [FAQs on the 2015 Annual Report](#).

Column Q, Average Time to Locate a Child*: The length of time is determined by the number of days from the time location efforts began to when the minor was

confirmed to be located. For the 2015 Annual Report, we analyzed all cases in which the child was located in CY 2014. If the USCA could not obtain these dates from our foreign law enforcement contacts by the end of the reporting period on December 31, 2014, “unknown” is listed in the column.