

by payments from Federal, State, or local legal assistance or other programs.

(3) Any court ordering the return of a child pursuant to an action brought under section 9003 of this title shall order the respondent to pay necessary expenses incurred by or on behalf of the petitioner, including court costs, legal fees, foster home or other care during the course of proceedings in the action, and transportation costs related to the return of the child, unless the respondent establishes that such order would be clearly inappropriate.

(Pub. L. 100-300, § 8, Apr. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 440.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 11607 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

### § 9008. Collection, maintenance, and dissemination of information

#### (a) In general

In performing its functions under the Convention, the United States Central Authority may, under such conditions as the Central Authority prescribes by regulation, but subject to subsection (c), receive from or transmit to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government or of any State or foreign government, and receive from or transmit to any applicant, petitioner, or respondent, information necessary to locate a child or for the purpose of otherwise implementing the Convention with respect to a child, except that the United States Central Authority—

(1) may receive such information from a Federal or State department, agency, or instrumentality only pursuant to applicable Federal and State statutes; and

(2) may transmit any information received under this subsection notwithstanding any provision of law other than this chapter.

#### (b) Requests for information

Requests for information under this section shall be submitted in such manner and form as the United States Central Authority may prescribe by regulation and shall be accompanied or supported by such documents as the United States Central Authority may require.

#### (c) Responsibility of government entities

Whenever any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States or of any State receives a request from the United States Central Authority for information authorized to be provided to such Central Authority under subsection (a), the head of such department, agency, or instrumentality shall promptly cause a search to be made of the files and records maintained by such department, agency, or instrumentality in order to determine whether the information requested is contained in any such files or records. If such search discloses the information requested, the head of such department, agency, or instrumentality shall immediately transmit such information to the United States Central Authority, except that any such information the disclosure of which—

(1) would adversely affect the national security interests of the United States or the law

enforcement interests of the United States or of any State; or

(2) would be prohibited by section 9 of title 13;

shall not be transmitted to the Central Authority. The head of such department, agency, or instrumentality shall, immediately upon completion of the requested search, notify the Central Authority of the results of the search, and whether an exception set forth in paragraph (1) or (2) applies. In the event that the United States Central Authority receives information and the appropriate Federal or State department, agency, or instrumentality thereafter notifies the Central Authority that an exception set forth in paragraph (1) or (2) applies to that information, the Central Authority may not disclose that information under subsection (a).

#### (d) Information available from Parent Locator Service

To the extent that information which the United States Central Authority is authorized to obtain under the provisions of subsection (c) can be obtained through the Parent Locator Service, the United States Central Authority shall first seek to obtain such information from the Parent Locator Service, before requesting such information directly under the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

#### (e) Recordkeeping

The United States Central Authority shall maintain appropriate records concerning its activities and the disposition of cases brought to its attention.

(Pub. L. 100-300, § 9, Apr. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 440.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), was in the original “this Act” meaning Pub. L. 100-300, Apr. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 437, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note under section 9001 of this title and Tables.

##### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 11608 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

### § 9009. Office of Children’s Issues

#### (a) Director requirements

The Secretary of State shall fill the position of Director of the Office of Children’s Issues of the Department of State (in this section referred to as the “Office”) with an individual of senior rank who can ensure long-term continuity in the management and policy matters of the Office and has a strong background in consular affairs.

#### (b) Case officer staffing

Effective April 1, 2000, there shall be assigned to the Office of Children’s Issues of the Department of State a sufficient number of case officers to ensure that the average caseload for each officer does not exceed 75.

#### (c) Embassy contact

The Secretary of State shall designate in each United States diplomatic mission an employee

who shall serve as the point of contact for matters relating to international abductions of children by parents. The Director of the Office shall regularly inform the designated employee of children of United States citizens abducted by parents to that country.

**(d) Reports to parents**

**(1) In general**

Except as provided in paragraph (2), beginning 6 months after November 29, 1999, and at least once every 6 months thereafter, the Secretary of State shall report to each parent who has requested assistance regarding an abducted child overseas. Each such report shall include information on the current status of the abducted child's case and the efforts by the Department of State to resolve the case.

**(2) Exception**

The requirement in paragraph (1) shall not apply in a case of an abducted child if—

(A) the case has been closed and the Secretary of State has reported the reason the case was closed to the parent who requested assistance; or

(B) the parent seeking assistance requests that such reports not be provided.

(Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(7) [div. A, title II, §201], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-419).

**Editorial Notes**

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001, and not as part of the International Child Abduction Remedies Act which comprises this chapter.

Section was formerly classified to section 11608a of Title 22, The Public Health and Welfare.

**§ 9010. Interagency coordinating group**

The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Attorney General shall designate Federal employees and may, from time to time, designate private citizens to serve on an interagency coordinating group to monitor the operation of the Convention and to provide advice on its implementation to the United States Central Authority and other Federal agencies. This group shall meet from time to time at the request of the United States Central Authority. The agency in which the United States Central Authority is located is authorized to reimburse such private citizens for travel and other expenses incurred in participating at meetings of the interagency coordinating group at rates not to exceed those authorized under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5 for employees of agencies.

(Pub. L. 100-300, §10, Apr. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 441.)

**Editorial Notes**

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 11609 of Title 22, The Public Health and Welfare.

**§ 9011. Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year such sums as may be necessary

to carry out the purposes of the Convention and this chapter.

(Pub. L. 100-300, §12, Apr. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 442.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act" meaning Pub. L. 100-300, Apr. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 437, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note under section 9001 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 11610 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

**CHAPTER 98—INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION AND RETURN**

Sec.

9101. Definitions.

SUBCHAPTER I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIONS

9111. Annual Report.

9112. Standards and assistance.

9113. Bilateral procedures, including memoranda of understanding.

9114. Report to congressional representatives.

SUBCHAPTER II—ACTIONS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

9121. Response to international child abductions.

9122. Actions by the Secretary of State in response to patterns of noncompliance in cases of international child abductions.

9123. Consultations with foreign governments.

9124. Waiver by the Secretary of State.

9125. Termination of actions by the Secretary of State.

SUBCHAPTER III—PREVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

9141. Authorization for judicial training on international parental child abduction.

**§ 9101. Definitions**

In this chapter:

**(1) Abducted child**

The term "abducted child" means a child who is the victim of international child abduction.

**(2) Abduction**

The term "abduction" means the alleged wrongful removal of a child from the child's country of habitual residence, or the wrongful retention of a child outside such country, in violation of a left-behind parent's custodial rights, including the rights of a military parent.

**(3) Abduction case**

The term "abduction case" means a case that—

(A) has been reported to the Central Authority of the United States by a left-behind parent for the resolution of an abduction; and

(B) meets the criteria for an international child abduction under the Hague Abduction Convention, regardless of whether the country at issue is a Convention country.