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*U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*

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**A Family Resource Guide on International Parental Kidnapping** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Family Resource Guide on International Parental Kidnapping:

Every year, hundreds of children in the United States are victims of international parental kidnapping a childs wrongful removal from the United States, or wrongful retention in another country, by a parent or other family member. Parents and other family members left behind may be overwhelmed by feelings of loss, anguish, despair, and anger as well as confusion and uncertainty about what can be done in response. In December 1999, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention invited a small group of left-behind and searching parents to participate

in a planning and development meeting. Each one had experienced firsthand the heartbreak of having a child abducted to another country or wrongfully retained abroad. Some of them had recovered their children, while others had not. They willingly shared their knowledge of international parental kidnapping gained at tremendous personal cost to help other parents of abducted children understand what can be done to: Prevent an international parental kidnapping; Stop a kidnapping in progress; Locate a kidnapped or wrongfully retained child in another country; Bring an abductor to justice; Recover a kidnapped or wrongfully retained child from another country; Reestablish access to a child in another country. This guide imparts the groups practical wisdom and the hope that other parents will not have to experience the confusion and discouragement these parents did when it was not clear what to do or whom to turn to when their children were kidnapped. The group offered its suggestions for preventing international kidnapping and gave detailed advice to maximize the chance that children who are kidnapped or wrongfully retained will be returned to this country. The guide provides descriptions and realistic assessments of the civil and criminal remedies available in international parental kidnapping cases. It explains applicable laws and identifies both the public and private resources that may be called on when an international abduction occurs or is threatened. It gives practical advice on overcoming frequently encountered obstacles so that parents can get the help they need. The guide prepares parents for the legal and emotional difficulties they may experience and shares coping and general legal strategies to help them achieve their individual goals, whether they involve recovering a child or reestablishing meaningful access to a child in another country. Despite the difficulties that may lie ahead and the disappointment some parents may experience, it is important not to become discouraged. Stay hopeful. Many things can be done to prevent or to resolve an international parental kidnapping. This guide will help you organize your response.