BECKY TAYLOR FAMILY MEDIATION

FREE GUIDE · INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION

International Mediation

When one parent lives abroad: jurisdiction, enforcement, and cross-border solutions.

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When One Parent Lives Abroad

International separation cases are more complex than domestic ones. Different countries have different laws, and enforcing agreements across borders requires specialist knowledge.

Mediation can still work — but you need to understand jurisdiction, enforceability, and how to protect your children.

"If one parent lives abroad or plans to relocate, get specialist legal advice early. Do not try to navigate this alone."

The Hague Convention

The Hague Convention on International Child Abduction protects children from being wrongfully taken to or kept in another country by a parent.

Key principles

- Children should be **returned to their country of habitual residence** if wrongfully removed
- Disputes about custody should be decided by the courts of the country where the **child usually lives**
- **94 countries are signatories** (check if the other country is one of them)

What this means for you

If your ex-partner takes your child abroad without consent or refuses to return them after an agreed visit, you can apply for the child to be returned under the Hague Convention.

> **Act fast**
>
> Hague Convention applications are time-sensitive. If you are worried, seek legal advice immediately.

Remote Mediation for International Cases

Mediation can work across borders using video conferencing. Many mediators are experienced in international cases and can facilitate sessions with one or both parents abroad.

Benefits of Remote Mediation

- No travel costs
- Can be scheduled around time zones
- Less confrontational than international court proceedings
- Faster than navigating two legal systems

Limitations

- Requires both parties to have reliable internet
- May need separate legal advice in both countries
- Enforcing the agreement depends on both jurisdictions recognizing it

Travel Consent and Passports

Passports

If you are worried your ex-partner might take your child abroad without consent, you can object to a passport being issued. Contact the UK Passport Office and register your objection.

Travel consent

If you agree to your child traveling abroad with the other parent, put it in writing: dates, destination, return date, and contact details. Keep a signed copy.

If there is a risk of abduction, you can apply for a court order preventing travel or requiring the surrender of passports.

Enforcing agreements

International agreements are harder to enforce. If possible, get a court order in both countries. Specialist family lawyers can advise on "mirror orders" recognized in both jurisdictions.

Need specialist help?

International cases require expert legal and mediation support. We can connect you with specialists in cross-border family law.

BOOK A FREE 30-MINUTE CALL

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