

7 Key Points on Child Relocation Law for Parents



Arranging child relocation requires an understanding of the legal nuances involved. Our brief guide outlines what parents need to know.

1. Internal UK Moves

While not legally required, obtaining consent for relocating within the UK is advisable, especially if existing court orders for visitation exist.

2. Preventing Relocation

If one parent seeks to relocate the child within the UK, the responding parent can seek a Prohibited Steps Order to stop an internal UK move contending that it is not in the child's best interests.

3. Moving to Scotland or Northern Ireland

For relocations to these regions, legal action can be taken through the High Court to return the child if moved without proper consent.

4. Dealing with Unauthorised Moves

If a parent relocates without consent, the other parent can request a court order under the Family Act 1986 to locate the child, potentially on an emergency basis.

5. International Relocation

Moving a child abroad requires the consent of all parental guardians or a court order. Unauthorised international relocation could be a criminal offence.

6. Immediate Action if a Child is Taken Abroad

Issue a port alert through local police to prevent the child from being taken out of the UK. This alert is initially valid for 28 days but can be extended by court order.

7. Passport Issues

If there is a risk the responding parent might apply for a passport to take the child abroad, contact their country's diplomatic offices in the UK to request a block on passport issuance.

Contact us if you need legal support
regarding child relocation.