

Question#:	1
Topic:	Information Accessibility
Hearing:	Abducted Abroad: Exploring the Plight of International Parental Child Abduction and its Effect on American Families
Primary:	The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Committee:	JUDICIARY (SENATE)

Question: One of the most powerful prevention tools under The Goldman Act is under Title III, Sec 301, which requires your agencies to develop a program to prevent children from leaving the United States in violation of a court order. This has been implemented as the Prevent Departure Program.

Parents are reporting a couple of key difficulties with the accessibility of the federally mandated program. It's also hard to locate the program's very existence online. It's not listed directly on the International Parental Child Abduction page on the travel.state.gov website. The Child's Passport Issuance Alert Program is there, but to get to the DOS/CBP Prevent Abduction Program you have to click the link to "prevent international parental child abduction" and on the next page you'd have to select another link. "Information about the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act." A parent in the middle of crisis or family law attorney that who is not well experienced with international parental child abduction prevention is going to have difficulty finding the appropriate help.

On the CBP site when we search for child abduction we get a link to a help page to "Report possible child abduction." It directs the reader to the travel.state.gov page we just discussed and to contact National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. There is no mention of the Title III mandated program.

Why is information about this program not more easily accessible?

Response: Without knowing the exact search parameters or what search engines were being used to look for the material about the Title III program, CBP cannot speak to why this information was not easily accessible. The information was available on CBP.gov, but may not have shown up as the first search result. Meta tags that identify the Title III program or the child and parental abduction were not in place to further identify the information. CBP has taken steps to help ensure search parameters are increased to help address difficulty in accessing the information. CBP will continue to work with Congress and our executive branch partners to ensure that the Prevent Abduction Program is more publicly visible, accessible, and user-friendly, and are available to provide updates on our progress on an ongoing basis.

Question: How soon can this be corrected so that families at risk are being informed of the tools available to them?

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Response: CBP has added links on our main [cbp.gov/travel](https://www.cbp.gov/travel) page, and added keywords to the page to improve the availability of information. The page is currently located at <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-child-abduction-prevention-and-return-act>. Keywords such as ‘abducting’ ‘child abduction’ ‘parental abduction’ have also been added to the metadata of the page above so that when these keywords are searched the person will be directed to the site. We are also open to other suggestions about how to make the Prevent Abduction Program more visible, accessible, and user-friendly.

Question: With regard to the travel restraint language necessary for entry into the Prevent Abduction Program, can this be more transparently stated on the website?

Response: CBP completed updates to the website to include information on what can be done in situations when there are concerns with potential parental abduction, as well as the role of CBP and how CBP works with the Department of State and local law enforcement on these issues. CBP will continue to ensure the publicly available information on this important topic is current and readily available on <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-child-abduction-prevention-and-return-act>. Also, as mentioned above, we remain open to other suggestions about how to make the Prevent Abduction Program more visible, accessible, and user-friendly.

Question#:	2
Topic:	Inquiries and Enrollment
Hearing:	Abducted Abroad: Exploring the Plight of International Parental Child Abduction and its Effect on American Families
Primary:	The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Committee:	JUDICIARY (SENATE)

Question: How many parent inquires for registering children in the prevent abduction program have been received by the CBP since 2014 (by year)?

Response: CBP is not aware of any direct parent inquiries. As the Department of State (DOS), Office of Children’s Issues (OCI) is the central authority on International Parental Child Abduction cases, any inquiries received by CBP from the public would be coordinated with OCI. This coordination ensures all appropriate notifications and protocols are implemented, ensures legal compliance, and provides access to the assistance network through contact with a Children’s Issues specialist. As of May 3, 2018, CBP has received 619 requests for enrollment from OCI, and a breakdown by year is provided below in question number 2b.

Question: How many children have been enrolled in the prevent abduction program since 2014 (by year)?

Response:

- FY18 – 137
- FY17 – 194
- FY16 – 119
- FY15 – 122
- FY14 – 47

Question: How many requests to enroll children in the prevent abduction program have been denied/rejected since 2014 (by year)?

Response: CBP has not denied or rejected any requests for enrollment. If a CBP employee receives information from the public regarding a child that may be at risk of international abduction, Ports of Entry are directed to obtain the contact information for the reporting party, coordinate with local law enforcement and then immediately notify the National Targeting Center (NTC). NTC provides this contact information to OCI to validate cases with the relevant parties, and to coordinate enrollment of validated cases into the Prevent Abduction Program.