



Return US Home, Inc., (RUSH) is a Federal tax-exempt 501c3 organization that exists to educate the public and public servants about Parental Child Abduction (PCA) and remedies for its prevention. RUSH supports families affected by this crime through research, education, and advocacy.

Return US Home, Inc. (RUSH) believes that Parental Child Abduction (PCA), in both its domestic and international forms, is a preventable form of child abuse. Prevention begins with the development and consistent implementation of policies and procedures that complement international child protection laws. In support of this belief, RUSH respectfully requests that you consider the following toward devising a Dual Parent Authorization Procedure for the issuance of passports and birth certificates to minor children born and living abroad:

- Domestic and international PCA is a form of child abuse that exposes innocent children to lifelong psychological and emotional trauma.
- A majority of International Parental Child Abductions (IPCA) occur after the taking parent has secretly obtained vital travel records (for him/herself and the minor child) through their foreign embassy or consulate.
- Policies and procedures for obtaining vital records for minor children through foreign embassies and consulates must account for the safety and security of minor children.
- Requiring verification of both parents' consent prior to providing vital records for minor children born and living abroad will ensure the safety and security of those who may become victims of IPCA.

Accordingly, RUSH respectfully requests that you consider implementing the following policies and procedures at your foreign embassies and consulates, including in the United States:

1. Require that both the mother and father of minor children (under the age of 16) who are born or living abroad be present to request either birth certificates or passports.
2. If either parent is unable to represent him/herself in person, require that a copy of his/her passport, driver's license (or state issued ID), AND a signed and notarized letter containing a raised seal from the absent parent be required as part of the application for either a birth certificate or passport for a minor child (under the age of 16) who is born or living abroad.
3. If either parent has sole legal or physical custody of a minor child (under the age of 16), and requests either a birth certificate or passport for that child, he/she must provide a court notarized document, containing a raised or triple seal, verifying his/her sole rights of custody, as part of the application process (in cases where one parent is deceased, this may include a copy of the minor child's birth certificate verifying the names of both legal parents AND a raised seal copy of a vital record indicating the death of the absent parent).