

## On The Subject of International Child Abduction

The impact of divorce on families can be devastating, especially the collateral damage to children "caught in the middle." A hallmark trait of high-conflict divorce litigation is the power struggle that results when both parties place the child in a "tug-of-war" position.

What further mucks up the waters of divorce is when one parent has even remote ties to another country. We have found that one of the elements of retaliation used against the parent who fights against Child Protective Service Agencies, is that those Agencies are able to have a parent with remote connections to another country deported from the United States, even when that parent is an American Citizen. We have witnessed the summary deportation of such parents without any due process procedures.

Children experience devastating damage as pawns in divorce power plays. Evidence suggests that children further suffer when their parents are deported, resulting in their having no control over when or if they will see their parents again. The Foundation for the Child Victims of the Family Courts is looking to intervene in custody battles involving one foreign parent, to mitigate the negative impact on children. But there exists little accurate, deep diagnostic understanding of the family dynamics involved in such complex cases, or accurate psychosocial diagnostics relevant to the consequences to children from fractured families.