

Identifying the threats of abduction

Further instructions: tel. **044 2626662**

These often occur in the event of a child abduction. If several (2 -3) signs are seen, or if they are combined with the practical signs, preventive measures should be taken.

If there is one (1) practical action, the situation must immediately be taken seriously

Practical signs

- A parent has tried to or abducted a child in the past
- A parent applies for travel documents for the child (passport, visa, identity card) without having discussed the trip with the other parent
- A parent tries to get the child's documents, e.g., birth-, health-, or school documents
- A parent converts their assets into money and transfers it to another country
- A parent gives up their permanent residence or job
- The parent is preparing the child for a move or trip abroad, which has not been agreed upon

Clear, predictive signs

- A parent has threatened to abduct a child
- A parent claims that the child belongs to his or her family and thus does not need the other parent
- A parent tries to alienate the child from the other parent
- The parent has no other ties to Finland other than the child, they are not integrated
- The parent does not accept or respect the decision of the Finnish authorities regarding the child's custody, maintenance or visiting rights
- The parent is about to receive a refusal of entry, their citizenship application is rejected or they have not/do not want to apply for citizenship despite joint discussions and plans to settle in Finland

Other signs

- There are serious disagreements between the parents on matters concerning the child; e.g., upbringing, religion, health care or hobbies
- The parent is guilty of physical and psychological domestic violence, persecution or mistreatment of the child
- The parent suddenly begins to teach their own language and culture to the child, although they have not considered it important before
- The parent loses their apartment or job against their will
- The parent hides or destroys his or her documents or shows forged documents instead, e.g., entry documents

Things that may be related to abduction threats, but which can also manifest themselves separately – should only be interpreted as a abduction threat if the above mentioned signs are visible. The family in question may have other, even acute, needs for support.