



International Parental Child Abduction

May 17, 2023

Fiscal Year 2023 Report to Congress



**Homeland
Security**

Transportation Security Administration

Message from the Administrator

May 17, 2023

I am pleased to present the following report, “International Parental Child Abduction,” prepared by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

This report was compiled in accordance with direction in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Fiscal Year 2023 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-328). The report summarizes current training requirements for TSA’s frontline workforce on recognizing and preventing international parental child abduction.

In keeping with congressional requirements, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable Dave Joyce
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Katie Britt
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Inquiries relating to this report may be directed to me at (571) 227-2801 or to TSA’s Legislative Affairs office at (571) 227-2717.

Sincerely,



David P. Pekoske
Administrator





International Parental Child Abduction

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I. Legislative Language

This report is submitted in accordance with direction in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-328).

The Joint Explanatory Statement includes the following direction:

International Parental Child Abduction.—Within 120 days of the date of enactment of this Act, TSA shall provide a report to the Committees summarizing current frontline workforce training requirements on recognizing and preventing international parental child abduction.

II. Frontline Workforce Training Requirement

Transportation security officers (TSO) interact with millions of passengers each day. These officers continually are trained and briefed to remain vigilant and to observe interactions between passengers. As a result, they are uniquely situated to observe potential instances of human trafficking and parental child abduction.

Each fiscal year, the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Office of Training and Development releases the National Training Plan. The plan outlines the training that airport employees, including TSOs, lead TSOs, and supervisory TSOs, must complete by the end of the fiscal year.

In FY 2023, a Parental Child Abduction scenario is one of seven options available to field training departments. TSOs must complete two of the seven scenarios to satisfy the National Training Plan requirements for passenger screening.

The Parental Child Abduction scenario includes signs of abduction and actions that TSOs should take if they suspect that a child has been abducted, including notifying law enforcement and/or the U.S. Department of State. Additionally, all TSA employees must take annual Human Trafficking Awareness training. This training closely aligns with the concepts and objectives outlined in the Parental Child Abduction scenario.

TSA tracks training completions in its Online Learning Management System. As of May 2, 2023, 15,287 TSOs completed the FY 2023 Parental Child Abduction scenario, which is approximately 31.1 percent of the TSA frontline workforce. In FY 2022, 56,800 TSA employees completed the DHS Human Trafficking Awareness training, which is approximately 97 percent of the TSA workforce.