



Bilateral Agreement Between France and Lebanon on Family Matters

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BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRANCE AND LEBANON ON FAMILY MATTERS

On July 12, 1999, France and Lebanon signed a bilateral agreement on family matters. The agreement became effective as of March 1, 2000. It created a commission composed of representatives of both countries chosen from their respective Ministries of Justice, Interior and Foreign Affairs. The commission's role is to facilitate the resolution of cases dealing with custody and/or visitation rights and the protection of children's rights. Article 4 of the agreement mentions more specifically international parental kidnapping. It states that the commission must (1) take all the necessary measures to facilitate the return of a child "unlawfully displaced" or the exercise of the visitation right by the parent who has not been awarded custody; (2) ensure that parents are informed of their children's location, their material and moral situation, and the status of any outstanding proceedings; (3) facilitate the free movement of children and parents in order to ensure the effective exercise of the children's right to have personal relations with either of their divorced parents; and (4) promote a strong cooperation between the two parties.

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