

# International Relocation



If you wish to leave the country you are in and take your child/children to another country, without falling foul of the Hague, some jurisdictions allow a parent to apply to the family court for a relocation order. The requirements vary from country to country and the situation is made more complicated in countries which take a shared-parenting approach; in such cases, it is very much harder to get permission to relocate.

**The process can be both lengthy (2-5 years) and expensive.**

The key requirement is to demonstrate that the move will be in the best interests of the child or children. In addition, you must convince the court that the move will not undermine the child's relationship with the 'left-behind' parent. You will need to explain how you will ensure that your child maintains meaningful contact with the other parent, including arrangements for visits or holidays. Clearly, this requirement is a significant barrier for mothers who are attempting to leave an abusive relationship. If allegations of abuse are raised, there is a high risk that counter-allegations of parental alienation will be made, and believed.

In general, you will need to provide the court with a detailed, well-evidenced plan of your post-relocation intentions.

This should include:

- immigration status (you and your children)
- your employment prospects, and/or information about how you will support yourself and your children financially
- housing arrangements
- arrangements for your children's education
- support networks you will be able to draw on - family and friends.

For practical help and support, we recommend that 'stuck' parents contact GlobalARRK who have some excellent relocation resources on their website, including a comprehensive new report by Nishat Hyder-Rahman and Roz Osborne:

[Relocation Report 2025: A study of how applicant parents experience relocation proceedings to return to the country they consider home](#)

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