Press Releases: United States-Armenia Hague Convention on International Child Abduction

Media Note Office of the Spokesperson

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On March 1, 2018, the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction entered into force between the United States and Armenia. The United States now has 77 partners under the Convention.

The Convention provides a civil law mechanism for parents seeking the return of children who have been wrongfully removed from or retained outside their country of habitual residence in violation of custodial rights. Parents seeking access to children residing in treaty partner countries may also invoke the Convention. The Convention is important because it establishes an internationally recognized legal framework to resolve international parental child abduction cases. The Convention does not address who should have custody of the child; rather it addresses where issues of child custody should be decided.

The Department of State's Office of Children's Issues, which serves as the Central Authority for the United States under the Convention, welcomes our partnership with Armenia and looks forward to working together on this critical issue.

For more information please visit <u>travel.state.gov</u> and click on "international parental child abduction."

For press inquiries, please contact <u>CAPRESSREQUESTS@state.gov</u> or (202) 485-6150.

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