

International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act of 1993
Public Law 103-173, 107 Stat. 1998

(This is not the text of the law)

On December 2, 1993, the International Parental Kidnapping Act of 1993 was enacted into law. This legislation adds a new 18 U.S. C. ss. Which makes it an offense to remove a child from the United States or retain a child (who had been in the United States) outside the United States with intent to obstruct the lawful exercise of parental rights. Such an offense is punishable by a fine under title 18, imprisonment for not more than three years, or both.

The term "child" is defined as a person who has not attained the age of 16 years. The term "parental rights" with respect to a child means the right to physical custody of the child whether joint or sole, and includes visitation rights. Such parental rights may arise by operation of law, court order, or by legally binding agreement of both parties.