



*Embassy of the United States of America*  
Tokyo  
April 11, 2024

Dear Koichi Nagasato:

Thank you for raising the very important issue of parental child abductions. The State Department is committed to working with countries around the world to protect children from the harmful effects of wrongful removals or retention.

Our Ambassador has entrusted the entire consular team and I to lead our efforts on the issue of parental child abduction and assisting U.S. citizen children and parents who find themselves in these situations, and I am responding on his behalf.

Since Japan's accession to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction in 2014, significant progress has been made on this difficult issue, including the return of children from Japan to the United States under the terms of the Convention. Japan also strengthened its commitment to its obligations under the Hague Convention by enacting implementing legislation in April 2020, which has led to improved execution of Hague return orders of abducted children.

We continue to work closely with the Government of Japan to work toward the rightful return of abducted children through regular bilateral meetings with the Japanese Central Authority for Hague abduction cases, as well as for pre-Convention cases. My team in Tokyo also regularly meets with foreign embassies in Japan, including those from European countries, to discuss cooperation on International Parental Child Abduction cases and to press Japan for the resolution of all cases.

Please be assured that we share your concerns about the tragedy of parental child abductions, and consistently advocate for reforms that would better protect U.S. citizen children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie J. Chittenden".

Valerie J. Chittenden  
Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs  
Consul General