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Incorporates the Position of the Maltese Government

Convention de La Haye du 25 octobre 1980 sur les aspects civils de l'enlèvement international d'enfants

Projet de Profil des États

établi par le Bureau Permanent

Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

Draft Country Profile

drawn up by the Permanent Bureau

Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

FOREWORD TO THE COUNTRY PROFILE

This Country Profile should be used by Contracting States¹ to assist with fulfilment of the obligations contained within Article 7 of the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*.² In particular, it is anticipated that the Country Profile will help Contracting States fulfil their obligations under Articles 7(2) e) and 7(2) i) of the Convention, that is:

- To provide information of a general character on the law of their State in connection with the application of the Convention; and
- To keep other Central Authorities informed regarding the operation of the Convention in their State and to eliminate any obstacles to the Convention's application.

The Country Profile is intended to assist with the practical operation of the Convention. It is hoped that it will facilitate:

- a) information exchanges between Contracting States;
- b) knowledgeable service by Central Authorities under the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention;
- c) cost-effective translation of the information provided by Contracting States into English, French, Spanish, and other languages as required by Contracting States; and
- d) prompt updates of the information provided.

NEWLY ACCEDING STATES:

It should be noted that the Country Profile does not replace the "*Standard questionnaire for newly acceding States*" (available at < www.hcch.net > → Child Abduction Section → Questionnaires and responses). The Standard Questionnaire provides a means for newly acceding States to describe promptly, and in brief, the measures taken in their State to ensure compliance with their Convention obligations and to ensure the effective practical operation of the Convention in their State. It thereby assists States already Party to the Convention with their decision as to whether to accept an accession.

Newly acceding States are encouraged to complete this full Country Profile as soon as is practicable.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please mark the box which best represents the arrangements in your State:
 - Where the response requires either 'Yes' or 'No', please mark one box only.
 - For all other questions, it may be necessary to mark more than one box.
- Where applicable, please specify the relevant provision(s) of your domestic legislation and indicate how the legislation may be accessed, e.g., website, or provide a copy of the legislation.
- Please complete a separate profile for each territorial unit if there are significant differences in the substance and operation of the laws in each.
- Please note: the information contained in the Country Profile **is of a general nature only**. The purpose of the Country Profile is to assist with the practical operation of the Convention and not to provide a comprehensive picture of the legal system of each Contracting State. Please consider this when completing the Country Profile and when using the Country Profile of other Contracting States. Please contact the relevant Central Authority for clarification or specific advice.
- Contracting States are exclusively responsible for updating the information contained in their Country Profile. However, reminders for updates will be provided by the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

¹ Any reference to a Contracting State in this Country Profile is a reference to a Contracting State of the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*

² Hereinafter, "the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention", or simply "the Convention".

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- Completed Country Profiles will be published on the website of the Hague Conference on Private International Law < www.hcch.net >.
- The Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference has prepared a number of resources which may assist States in the effective implementation and operation of the Convention, in particular Guides to Good Practice. See < www.hcch.net > → 'Child Abduction Section' for further information in this regard.

TERMINOLOGY:

- Whilst it is acknowledged that in some States Parties the formal applicant to a return or access application under the Convention may be a State authority (see question 10.3 b) below), please note that the term '**applicant**' is used in the Country Profile as follows:
 - (a) In relation to a *return* application, the term 'applicant' denotes the person, institution or other body alleging that their actually exercised rights of custody in relation to a child have been breached by the removal or retention of the child, in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention; and
 - (b) In relation to an *access* application, the term 'applicant' denotes the person, institution or other body seeking to establish and / or exercise rights of access in relation to a child under Article 21 of the Convention.
- The term '**abducting party**' or '**alleged abducting party**' in the Country Profile refers to the person, institution or other body who has, or is alleged to have, wrongfully removed or retained a child in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention.

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COUNTRY PROFILE

Country Name: *Malta*

Territorial Unit (where applicable): *N/A*

Last updated: *25 July 2011*

Part I: Central Authorities

1 Central Authority contact details	
Provide the designation and contact details of the Central Authority to which communications may be addressed. Always check < www.hcch.net > → Child Abduction Section → Central Authorities for the most current contact details.	
Organisation:	<i>Director for Social Welfare Standards</i>
Address:	<i>Department for Social Welfare Standards 469, St. Joseph High Road, St. Venera SVR 1012, MALTA</i>
Territorial and personal extent of functions, if applicable:	<i>N/A</i>
Telephone:	<i>+356 2278 8000</i>
Fax:	<i>+356 2278 8355</i>
E-mail:	<i>welfare.standards@gov.mt</i>
Website:	<i>www.welfarestandards.gov.mt</i>
Contact person(s) and direct contact details (please indicate language(s) of communication):	<i>Dr. Sandra Hili Vassallo LL.D +356 2278 8360</i>
Preferred method of communication:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fax <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Post <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
OTHER DESIGNATED CENTRAL AUTHORITIES (IF APPLICABLE)	
Please attach additional pages if there is more than one designated Central Authority in your State.	
Organisation:	
Address:	
Territorial and personal extent of functions, if applicable:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	

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Website:

Contact person(s) and direct contact details (please indicate language(s) of communication):

Preferred method of communication:

Telephone

Fax

E-mail

Post

Other (*please specify*):

2 Language requirements

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>a) Does the Central Authority prefer applications, communications and other documents sent to them to be accompanied by a translation into the official language(s) of the State?</p> <p><i>See Article 24</i></p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, for all communications, applications and other documents. Please specify the official language(s) of the State: <i>Maltese and English</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not for informal communications</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> |
| <p>b) Has your State made a reservation in respect of the use of French or English for communications, applications and other documents sent to the Central Authority?</p> <p><i>See Article 42</i></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, object to English</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, object to French</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> |

3 Central Authority operations

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>a) What are the working days and hours of the Central Authority?</p> | <p>Days of the week open: <i>Monday to Friday</i></p> <p>Opening time: <i>08:00hrs</i></p> <p>Closing time: <i>16:00hrs</i></p> <p>Shut down periods (e.g., public holidays, court closures): <i>Saturdays and Sundays and public holidays</i></p> |
| <p>b) Can assistance be accessed outside of working hours?</p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (<i>please specify contact details, if different from above</i>):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For persons in other Convention States: be email</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For persons in your State: by email</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> |
| <p>c) Does the Central Authority have a dedicated staff who deals <i>only</i> with 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention applications and related issues?</p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> |
| <p>d) Please indicate the professions represented in the Central Authority:</p> <p>Please note that some individual staff members may fall under more than one category. This question should not be interpreted as an indication of the number of staff members in the Central Authority</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Civil servants</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Civil Servants (Legal Advisors)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lawyers</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social workers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mediators</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p> |

Part II: Relevant legislation

4 International Child Abduction	
4.1 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention	
a) When did the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention enter into force in your State?	Date: 1st January 2000
b) Was implementing legislation necessary for the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention to enter into force in your domestic law? Please specify how legislation can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The date that the legislation entered into force: <i>1 August 2000</i> • The legislative provision(s) or implementing legislation: <i>Child Abduction and Custody Act (Cap 410, Laws of Malta)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No
c) Whether implementing legislation was necessary in your State or not, have any (other) legislative provisions or procedural rules been enacted to assist with the effective operation of the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention? Please specify how legislation can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The date that the legislation or procedural rules entered into force or effect: The legislative provision(s) or procedural rules: <i>Rule 19 of the Court Practice and Procedure and Good Order Rules (L.N.279/08, as amended by L.N. 333/08) on Proceedings and registration of decisions under the Act.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No
4.2 Other agreements on international child abduction	
a) Is your State party to any other international agreements which relate to international child abduction?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brussels II a Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 of 27 November 2003) <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-American Convention of 15 July 1989 on the International Return of Children <input type="checkbox"/> Bilateral agreements (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binding memoranda of understanding (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> No
5 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention	
a) Is your State a Contracting State to the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention? <i>Refer to < www.hcch.net > for the status table of the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, if so, on what date did the 1996 Convention enter into force in your State: <i>It was acceded to on 24 February 2011 will enter into force on 1 January 2012.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No
b) Was implementing legislation necessary for the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention to enter into force in your domestic law? <i>Please specify how legislation can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The date that the legislation entered into force: <i>14 December 2010</i> • The legislative provision(s) or implementing legislation: <i>Protection of Children (Hague Convention) Act (Cap 507)</i>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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<p>c) Whether implementing legislation was necessary in your State or not, have any (other) legislative provisions or procedural rules been enacted to assist with the effective operation of the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention?</p> <p><i>Please specify how legislation can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The date that the legislation or procedural rules entered into force or effect: <i>14 December 2010</i>• The legislative provision(s) or procedural rules: <i>Protection of Children (Hague Convention) Act (Cap 507, Laws of Malta)</i> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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Part III: Applications for return

6 Applications through Central Authorities	
6.1 Outgoing applications (Requesting State)	
<p>a) What type of assistance is provided to applicants in your State when completing an application for return under the Convention? <i>See Articles 7 and 8</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assistance from the Central Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Assistance from another authority <input type="checkbox"/> Referral to a legal representative <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
6.2 Incoming applications (Requested State)	
<p>a) What form of application does your State require for an incoming application?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (1) Model Application Form Available at www.hcch.net Child Abduction Section Go to question c) <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Form developed by your State Please specify how this form can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy: Go to question c) <input type="checkbox"/> Both (1) and (2), go to question c) <input type="checkbox"/> Other, go to question b)</p>
<p>b) If your State does not require a particular form of application, what information or documents does your State request? <i>See Article 8</i> <i>Please note that the only information actually required by the Convention (Article 8) is indicated by a cross in the relevant box</i></p>	<p>Information concerning the identity of the child: Name and previous name/s Date of birth, where available <input type="checkbox"/> Address <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone number <input type="checkbox"/> Nationality / Nationalities <input type="checkbox"/> Passport number(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Physical description (height, eye and hair colour) <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph (as recent as possible) <input type="checkbox"/> Information identifying the child's parents e.g., nationalities - where a parent is not the applicant or respondent to proceedings (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p>Information concerning the identity of the applicant: <input type="checkbox"/> Name and previous name/s <input type="checkbox"/> Date of birth <input type="checkbox"/> Address <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone number <input type="checkbox"/> Nationality / Nationalities <input type="checkbox"/> Passport number(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Relationship of the applicant to the child <input type="checkbox"/> Name(s) of legal adviser, if any <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p>Information concerning the identity of the person alleged to have removed or retained the child: <input type="checkbox"/> Name and previous name/s <input type="checkbox"/> Date of birth</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Address <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone number <input type="checkbox"/> Nationality / Nationalities <input type="checkbox"/> Passport number(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Physical description (height, eye and hair colour) <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph (as recent as possible) <input type="checkbox"/> Relationship of the person to the child <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <p>The grounds upon which the applicant's claim for return of the child is based</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of the applicant's rights of custody <input type="checkbox"/> An authenticated copy of any relevant decision or agreement <input type="checkbox"/> A certificate or an affidavit emanating from the Central Authority, or other competent authority of the State of the child's habitual residence, or from a qualified person, concerning the relevant law of that State <input type="checkbox"/> The alleged habitual residence of the child, with supporting information <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <p>All available information relating to the whereabouts of the child and the identity of the person with whom the child is presumed to be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Any other relevant document / information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Concerning any child protection issues <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce decree (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Civil and / or criminal proceedings in progress (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of child or other relevant person's right to re-enter the State of the child's habitual residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): An affidavit of the sequence of events(brief) starting from marriage, if married, or from start of relationship to the alleged child abduction. This affidavit would be the basis of defence if the matter of abduction finds itself in front of the Court.
<p>c) Does your Central Authority accept an application and accompanying documentation transmitted by electronic means?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify any requirements for electronically transmitted applications / documentation: <i>The Malta Central Authority requires that all of the electronically sent documents are authenticated. The original should reach the Malta Central Authority as soon as possible.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>d) Does the Central Authority require a written authorisation empowering it or a designated representative (e.g., lawyer) to act on behalf of the applicant? <i>See Article 28</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the authorisation should be provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> On the application form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In a signed statement or declaration <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> No

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<p>e) Does the Central Authority acknowledge receipt of the application?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, acknowledgment generally is provided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facsimile <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>f) Can the Central Authority proceed with an application where the information provided is incomplete?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the Central Authority will begin processing the application and will immediately inform the requesting Central Authority of what additional information is required to complete the request.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority will not process an application without all of the necessary supporting documentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority is unable to process the application but will immediately inform the requesting Central Authority of what additional information is required before further action can be taken <p><input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon what type of information is missing (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please explain</i>):</p>
<p>g) Who does the Central Authority prefer to communicate with in incoming applications?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The requesting Central Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The applicant <input type="checkbox"/> The applicant's legal representative <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
<p>h) What measures are taken by the Central Authority to attempt to secure the voluntary return of a child allegedly wrongfully removed or retained in accordance with Article 3 of the Convention (hereinafter, simply "the child")?</p> <p><i>Please explain where necessary</i></p> <p><i>See Article 7 c) and Article 10</i></p> <p><i>See also Part V: Mediation and Other Forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution below.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contact is made with the alleged abducting party to seek a voluntary return</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mediation and / or other forms of alternative dispute resolution are offered to the parties (see Part V: Mediation and Other Forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>i) How do you ensure that no undue delay results from the measures taken, or attempted, to secure the voluntary return of the child (see question h) above)?</p>	<p><i>Please explain: When all required documentation is received, the Malta Central Authority immediately contacts the alleged abducting parent and simultaneously prepares a Court application to be presented in Court if the alleged abducting parent refuses to cooperate. This will also prevent the possibility of the removal of the child from Malta as the Court is requested to ban the children from leaving Malta until the Court proceedings are concluded.</i></p>
<p>j) What is the role of the Central Authority in taking or causing to be taken provisional measures to prevent further harm to the child?</p> <p><i>See Article 7(2) b)</i></p> <p><i>Refer also to sections 10.5 and 11.2 below</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alert appropriate agencies where there are concerns that a child is at risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Apply directly to authorities for protection orders <input type="checkbox"/> Refer parties to appropriate agencies <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):

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<p>k) Can an applicant commence proceedings in your State for the return of the child under the Convention without using the Central Authority channel? <i>See Article 3 and Article 29</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, if so, please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the applicant can obtain information about commencing proceedings: <i>Information can still be obtained from the Malta Central Authority</i> • What role, if any, the Central Authority has in these proceedings: <i>Marginal and serves for information purpose.</i> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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7 Locating a child and preventing removal

For best practice on locating a child and preventing removal, see the Guides to Good Practice under the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention available at < www.hcch.net > → Child Abduction Section → Guides to Good Practice. In particular, in relation to preventing removal, see Part III of the Guide to Good Practice on Preventive Measures.

<p>a) Can return proceedings commence before the child is located?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, in certain circumstances (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>b) What evidence / information does your State require regarding the child's whereabouts to begin to assist with locating the child? <i>Please explain where necessary</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evidence that the child entered your State (e.g., evidence that the child boarded an aeroplane bound for your State):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information from the applicant as to why he / she believes the child is in your State:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No information or evidence is required; searches for the child can begin upon request:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please explain</i>): <i>If little or no information is provided, the Malta Central Authority will try to locate the child itself.</i></p>
<p>c) What mechanisms or sources of information are available in your State to discover the whereabouts of the child? <i>Please indicate in the space provided any associated costs for an applicant or any other necessary information</i></p> <p><i>See Article 7(2) a)</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> (1) Private location services:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (2) Population Register:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (3) Employment Register:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (4) Information maintained by other government agencies (e.g., <i>immigration, social welfare</i>):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (5) Police:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (6) INTERPOL:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (7) Court orders to compel the production of information on the whereabouts of the child: Only if it is required.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (8) Other (<i>please specify</i>): <i>According to the Child Abduction and Custody Act (Cap. 410), the Malta Central Authority is empowered to seek any information from anybody to discover the whereabouts of the child.</i></p>
<p>d) Please indicate who is responsible for arranging the measures listed above in question c) by inserting the relevant number next to the responsible person or authority. <i>E.g., Central Authority: 2, 3 The applicant's representative: 7</i></p>	<p>Central Authority: 3,4,5,6,7,8 The applicant: The applicant's representative: Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>e) Please indicate, by inserting the relevant numbers, which of the measures listed above in question c) need an order from a competent</p>	<p><i>Vide reply to 7 (c) (8)</i></p>

Where applicable, please specify relevant legislation and provisions and indicate how the legislation may be accessed, e.g., website, or provide a copy of the legislation.

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authority?	
f) What measures can be taken in your State to deter the removal or re-abduction of the child? <i>Please explain where necessary</i> <i>Refer also to the Guide To Good Practice, Part III – Preventive Measures, available at < www.hcch.net >, particularly to paragraph 3.1 on barriers to international travel</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (1) Child’s passport(s) to be deposited with authorities <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Alleged abductor’s passport to be deposited with authorities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (3) Obtain orders to prevent the removal of the child <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (4) Issuing border and/or port alerts <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Requiring the alleged abductor to report periodically to authorities <input type="checkbox"/> (6) Requiring the alleged abductor to pay a bond/deposit <input type="checkbox"/> (7) Temporary placement of child in institutional care <input type="checkbox"/> (8) Other (<i>please specify</i>):
g) Please indicate who may apply for the measures listed above in question f) by inserting the relevant number next to the responsible person or authority.	Central Authority: <i>1, 3,4</i> The applicant: The applicant’s representative: Other (<i>please specify</i>):
h) Please indicate, by inserting the relevant numbers, which of the measures above in question f) need an order from a competent authority?	<i>1, 3, 4</i>

8 Legal representation and assistance

8.1 General

a) Has your State made a reservation to Article 26 of the Convention?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
b) Does the Central Authority provide legal advice regarding return applications?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No, however: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority will refer the applicant to the appropriate person or authority to obtain legal advice <input type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority will provide information that is of a general nature about laws and procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
c) Is legal representation required in return proceedings? <i>See Article 25</i> <i>Please explain where necessary</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No, but recommended
d) What is the role of the Central Authority in arranging legal representation? <i>See Article 7(2) g)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> The applicant is required to make his / her own arrangements for legal representation, but the Central Authority will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provide the applicant with a list of lawyers <input type="checkbox"/> Provide the applicant with a list of free or reduced rate lawyers <input type="checkbox"/> Legal representation is not required. The Central Authority ensures the application is forwarded to the

Where applicable, please specify relevant legislation and provisions and indicate how the legislation may be accessed, e.g., website, or provide a copy of the legislation.

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	<p>competent authority for action. <i>Please provide additional information if necessary:</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal representation is arranged by the Central Authority. Representation is provided by:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Authority lawyers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Private lawyers</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public prosecutor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>8.2 Free or reduced rate legal assistance</p>	
<p>a) Is free or reduced rate legal assistance available to an applicant in return proceedings in your State?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, free legal assistance. Go to question c)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, reduced rate legal assistance. Go to question c)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, go to question b)</p>
<p>b) If free or reduced rate legal assistance is <u>not</u> available, in what other ways can your State assist an applicant financially?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> There is a system of costs ordering the respondent to pay</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pro bono legal assistance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not at all</p> <p>Please go to section 9</p>
<p>c) Is the applicant required to complete an application form for free or reduced rate legal assistance?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>d) Please indicate on what basis free or reduced rate legal assistance may be available.</p> <p><i>Please explain where necessary</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Income of the applicant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Assets of the applicant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Country of residence of the applicant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Likelihood of success of the proceedings</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <i>legal assistance is provided free of charge.</i></p>
<p>e) Which costs are covered by free or reduced rate legal assistance?</p> <p><i>Please explain where necessary</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> (1) Mediation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (2) Translation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (3) Interpreters</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (4) Service of documents</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (5) Costs associated with locating the child</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (6) Court fees</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (7) Travel costs for the return of the child (see question 11.1 c))</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (8) Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>f) Please indicate which costs, if any, are covered by the Central Authority by listing the numbers set out in question e) above?</p>	
<p>g) Is free or reduced rate legal assistance available for the appeal of decisions?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No, go to question i)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, free legal assistance; go to question h)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, reduced rate legal assistance; go to question h)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon an assessment of the merits of the case and / or the means of the individual concerned (<i>please specify</i>): Go to question h)</p>
<p>h) Is a new application for free or reduced rate legal assistance required for appeals?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>

Where applicable, please specify relevant legislation and provisions and indicate how the legislation may be accessed, e.g., website, or provide a copy of the legislation.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
i) Is free or reduced rate legal assistance available for proceedings needed to enforce a return order?	<input type="checkbox"/> No, go to question k) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, free legal assistance; go to question j) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, reduced rate legal assistance; go to question j) <input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon an assessment of the merits of the case and / or the means of the individual concerned (<i>please specify</i>): Go to question j)
j) Is a new application for free or reduced rate legal assistance required for enforcement applications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
k) Is free or reduced rate legal assistance available to an alleged abducting party located in your State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, free legal assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, reduced rate legal assistance Please specify in what circumstances and on what basis legal assistance will be granted: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
l) Where a child is returned to your State, is free or reduced rate legal assistance available to all parties in the custody proceedings in your State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, free legal assistance is available to all parties <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, reduced rate legal assistance is available to all parties Please specify in what circumstances and on what basis legal assistance will be granted: <input type="checkbox"/> Free legal assistance is only available to certain persons (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced rate legal assistance is only available to certain persons (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify in what circumstances and on what basis legal assistance will be granted: <input type="checkbox"/> No, free and / or reduced rate legal assistance is not available to any party <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <i>Free legal assistance is only available to the party who qualifies for legal aid.</i>

9 Rights of custody

9.1 Acquisition and exercise of rights of custody

See Articles 3 and 5

a) Do rights of custody arise by operation of law in your State? <i>Please specify the relevant legislation and provisions and indicate how the legislation may be accessed, e.g., website, or provide a copy</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, go to question b) <input type="checkbox"/> No, go to question c)
b) To whom are rights of custody attributed by operation of law? <i>See Articles 3 and 5</i> <i>Please specify the relevant legislation and provisions and indicate how the legislation may be accessed, e.g., website, or provide a copy</i>	Please explain: <i>to the natural parents of the child under Title IV of Book First of the Civil Code (Cap. 16).</i> <i>Legislation is accessible online on www.justiceservices.gov.mt and the Malta Central Authority sends copies with the application</i>

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c) By what other methods can a person or institution acquire rights of custody?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judicial decision <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agreement having legal effect <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
d) How, if at all, can the attribution of rights of custody be modified?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By order of a judicial or administrative authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By written agreement <input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon how the rights of custody were acquired (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
e) How, if at all, can rights of custody be terminated?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By order of a judicial or administrative authority <input type="checkbox"/> By written agreement <input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon how the rights of custody were acquired (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
f) Prior to any order determining the issue, who <i>generally</i> has the right to determine the child's residence?	Please explain: <i>parents</i>

10 Proceedings for Return

10.1 Organisation of competent authorities

a) Does your State limit the number of judicial or administrative authorities who can hear return applications under the Convention? (<i>i.e.</i> , has your State 'concentrated jurisdiction' in respect of applications under the Convention)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
b) Please state exactly how many courts or administrative authorities and how many judges or relevant decision-makers can hear return applications under the Convention?	<i>Court/Administrative Authorities: Family Court Judges/Decision-makers: 2</i>
c) Please list the judicial or administrative authorities that can make decisions in return applications under the Convention?	<i>Family Court Court of Appeal</i>
d) Are the judges or administrative authorities who decide return applications in your State specialists in either family law or international child abduction? <i>See also section 22 on Training below</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, specialists in family law <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, specialists in international child abduction <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
e) In ascertaining whether there has been a wrongful removal or retention under the Convention, do judicial or administrative authorities in your State take judicial notice of foreign law and decisions without recourse to the specific procedures for the proof of that law or for the recognition of foreign decisions which would otherwise be applicable in ascertaining whether there has been a wrongful removal or wrongful retention? <i>See Article 14</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):

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10.2 Articles 15 and 16 of the Convention	
a) In your State is it possible for a decision or other determination to be made, in accordance with Article 15 of the Convention, that the removal or retention of a child was wrongful within the meaning of Article 3? <i>See Article 3 and Article 15</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, go to question b) <input type="checkbox"/> No, go to question e)
b) Which authorities in your State can issue Article 15 decisions / determinations? <i>See Article 15</i>	Please list: <i>Family Court</i>
c) Who can apply for an Article 15 decision / determination?	<input type="checkbox"/> Central Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The applicant in the return proceedings <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
d) Are Article 15 decisions / determinations of other States accepted by the judicial or administrative authorities in your State?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, <i>please explain if necessary</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> No
e) Who notifies the relevant judicial or administrative bodies that a decision on the merits of rights of custody should not be made until it has been determined that the child should not be returned? <i>See Article 16</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Central Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The applicant's legal representative <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
f) When does notification in accordance with Article 16 take place?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatically upon receipt of a return application <input type="checkbox"/> Upon request of either party <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
10.3 Procedures	
a) How does the Central Authority fulfil its obligation to initiate or facilitate the initiation of proceedings in your State? <i>See Article 7(2) f)</i> <i>See also question 8.1 d) above</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority itself initiates the proceedings for return <input type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority sends the file to an appropriate lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority sends the file to the Public Prosecutor <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
b) Who is the formal applicant in return proceedings before the court / administrative authority in your State?	<input type="checkbox"/> The person, institution or other body which made the application under the Convention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority <input type="checkbox"/> The Public Prosecutor <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
c) Have measures been taken to ensure that the judicial and administrative authorities in your State act expeditiously in return proceedings? <i>See Article 11</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please explain briefly what the measures are: <input type="checkbox"/> In the implementing legislation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In procedural rules: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): Please specify how the legislation or rules can be obtained (e.g., website) or attach a copy: <i>These are made available online: www.justiceservices.gov.mt</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No
d) Generally, what is the expected time from the commencement of the proceedings for return to	<input type="checkbox"/> Up to 6 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 12 weeks

Where applicable, please specify relevant legislation and provisions and indicate how the legislation may be accessed, e.g., website, or provide a copy of the legislation.

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<p>a final order (excluding appeals)? <i>See Article 11</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> More than 12 weeks (<i>please provide further information</i>):</p>
<p>e) Is the applicant generally required to participate in the return proceedings? <i>Please note that attendance in person is not required under the Convention (see paragraph 6.5.3 of the Guide to Good Practice, Part II - Implementing Measures)</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify in what circumstances: <i>The parent who is left behind is requested to provide a sworn statement of facts to be filed in court and he/she may be called for cross examination</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, but advisable</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>f) Are facilities available to enable the applicant to participate in return proceedings from outside your State?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Video-conference</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Telephone</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Through a legal representative</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>g) If the applicant does participate in return proceedings in your State, is simultaneous interpretation available, where necessary?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>h) Where the facilities set out in questions 10.3 f) and g) above are required, who is responsible for the cost of providing such facilities?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The applicant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The requesting Central Authority</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The requested Central Authority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The court / administrative authority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon the facility used (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>i) Can special immigration arrangements (<i>e.g.</i>, visas) be made to enable the applicant to attend return proceedings in person if he / she so wishes?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>j) Is it possible for a return application to be decided solely on the basis of the papers <i>i.e.</i>, with no court (or administrative authority) hearing at all?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but it is unlikely</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, there will always be a hearing</p>
<p>k) Can oral evidence be received in return proceedings?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, oral evidence will always be received in return proceedings</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, oral evidence can be received in return proceedings but in limited circumstances only (<i>please specify</i>): <i>Oral evidence is tendered during the hearing and also by video link.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, oral evidence can never be received in return proceedings</p>
<p>10.4 Participation of the child</p>	
<p>a) Does the child have an opportunity to be heard in return proceedings in your State?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, in every case; go to question b)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It depends upon the particular case and is always at the discretion of the judge / authority hearing the case. <i>Please explain if necessary:</i> Go to question b)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only where Article 13(2) is relied upon; go to question b)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): Go to question b)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, never. Go to section 10.5</p>

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<p>b) How is the child heard in return proceedings?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct interview with judge <input type="checkbox"/> Report prepared for court by independent expert <input type="checkbox"/> Child's own legal representative <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>c) How does your State ensure that no undue delay results from hearing the child in the course of return proceedings?</p>	<p><i>Please explain: The child is heard in chambers after all the evidence is concluded and before the case is set for submissions.</i></p>
<p>d) Can judicial or administrative authorities appoint a legal representative (attorney or <i>guardian ad litem</i>) to represent the child's best interests in return proceedings?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify under what circumstances: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>10.5 Protective Measures</p>	
<p>a) Where there are concerns about the care being given to a child in your State, which authorities provide services for the assessment and protection of the child? <i>Please provide additional information if necessary</i> <i>On the role of the Central Authority in this respect, see also question 6.2 j) above</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government social / welfare agency: <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organisations / agencies: <input type="checkbox"/> Central Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> Police: <input type="checkbox"/> Courts: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>b) What measures are available to ensure the protection of a child in your State (both prior to the initiation of return proceedings and whilst return proceedings are ongoing)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. Injunctive orders can be placed on the alleged abducting party prohibiting certain forms of conduct e.g., violence, drinking etc. <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Placement of the child in foster care <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Placement of the child in State care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Supervision of the alleged abducting party's care of the child by a social/welfare agency <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>c) Which of the above measures require a court order? Please list the relevant numbers from question 10.5 b) above.</p>	<p><i>All of the above measures.</i></p>
<p>d) Who is responsible for applying for any protective measure requiring a court order? Please list next to the relevant individual or body the number of the measure from question b) above, which they are required to apply for. <i>On the role of the Central Authority in this respect, see also question 6.2 j) above</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The applicant: <input type="checkbox"/> The requesting Central Authority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The requested Central Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> The Public Prosecutor: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A government social/welfare agency: <input type="checkbox"/> The Police: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>10.6 Contact or access during return proceedings</p>	
<p>a) Can judicial or administrative authorities take provisional or interim measures to enable an applicant to exercise contact or access in respect of the child while return proceedings are pending?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

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10.7 Appeals	
a) Can a decision in return proceedings be appealed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Only in certain circumstances (<i>please specify</i>): If you ticked either of the boxes above, please specify how many levels of appeal exist and to which court(s) / authority(ies) an appeal may be made: <i>An appeal may be entered by the aggrieved party by means of an application filed before the Court of Appeal. Kindly note that there is only one level of appeal.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No, go to section 11
b) Is there an expedited procedure or special process of appeal for Hague return cases? <i>Please specify the legislation and/or rules which provide for this and how they can be obtained (e.g., website) or attach a copy</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <i>Rule 19 of the Court Practice and Procedure and Good Order Rules (LN279/08, as amended by LN333/08) on Proceedings and registration of decisions under the Act. This is accessible on website: www.justiceservices.gov.mt</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No
c) Who can initiate the appeal process?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Either party to the proceedings <input type="checkbox"/> Central Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Public Prosecutor <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
d) Is leave to appeal required?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In certain circumstances (<i>please specify</i>):
e) If a return order is made, can it be suspended (<i>i.e.</i> , 'stayed') pending an appeal?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, a return order is <i>automatically</i> suspended pending an appeal <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, a return order can be suspended pending an appeal at the request of either party <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, a return order can be suspended pending an appeal at the request of either party <u>and</u> after determination by the judge/authority <input type="checkbox"/> No
f) Is there a time limit by which an appeal must be filed in return proceedings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: The time limit: <i>eight (8) working days.</i> From when the time limit starts to run (<i>e.g.</i> , from the date of judgment, from the date of the order, from the date the decision was notified to the parties <i>etc.</i>): <i>From the date of judgement.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No
g) Generally, what is the expected time within which appeals are filed and decided?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Up to 3 months <input type="checkbox"/> 3 to 6 months <input type="checkbox"/> Longer than 6 months
h) Is the applicant generally required to participate in the appeal proceedings? <i>Please note that attendance in person is not required under the Convention (see paragraph 6.5.3 of the Guide to Good Practice, Part II - Implementing Measures)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify in what circumstances: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, but advisable <input type="checkbox"/> No

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<p>i) Are facilities available to enable the applicant to attend appeal proceedings from outside your State?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: Video-conference <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Through a legal representative <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>j) If applicant does participate in appeal proceedings in your State, is simultaneous interpretation available, where necessary?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>k) Where the facilities set out in questions i) and j) above are required, who is responsible for the cost of providing such facilities?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The applicant <input type="checkbox"/> The requesting Central Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The requested Central Authority <input type="checkbox"/> The court / administrative authority <input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon the facility used (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>l) Can special immigration arrangements (e.g., visas) be made to enable the applicant to attend appeal proceedings in person if he / she so wishes?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (<i>please specify</i>): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

11 Return of the child

11.1 Arrangements for return and the costs of return

<p>a) Who is responsible for making travel arrangements for the return of the child?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The abducting party <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The applicant <input type="checkbox"/> The abducting party and the applicant <input type="checkbox"/> The requesting Central Authority <input type="checkbox"/> The requested Central Authority <input type="checkbox"/> The judicial or administrative authority will direct who is to make arrangements on a case-by-case basis. Please explain if necessary: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <i>The arrangements for the return of the child could also be determined by agreement between the abductor and the left behind parent/legal guardian.</i></p>
<p>b) Who is responsible for the travel costs relating to the return of the child?</p>	<p>The abducting party The applicant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The abducting party and the applicant <input type="checkbox"/> The requesting Central Authority <input type="checkbox"/> The requested Central Authority <input type="checkbox"/> The costs are decided by the judicial or administrative authority on a case-by-case basis. Please explain if necessary: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <i>The travel costs are normally borne by the applicant.</i></p>
<p>c) Is there financial assistance available in your State to assist with travel costs associated with the return of the child? <i>See also question 8.2 e)</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>

Where applicable, please specify relevant legislation and provisions and indicate how the legislation may be accessed, e.g., website, or provide a copy of the legislation.

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d) Can special immigration arrangements (e.g., visas) be made, where necessary, to enable an applicant to travel to your State to collect a child (following a return order or a voluntary agreement to return the child)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Please explain, if necessary:
e) Can special immigration arrangements (e.g., visas) be made, where necessary, for abducting parties and children returning to your State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Please explain, if necessary:
11.2 Provisions for safe return	
See also: Article 7(2) b) Part VI: Direct Judicial Communications Section 6: Applications through Central Authorities	
a) Does the law in your State provide for the protection of children from domestic violence or other forms of abuse?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, Please specify how legislation can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy: <i>Domestic Violence Act (Cap 481) accessible on website: www.justiceservices.gov.mt</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No
b) Does the law in your State provide for the protection of adults from domestic violence or other forms of abuse?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, Please specify how legislation can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy: <i>Domestic Violence Act (Cap 481) accessible on website: www.justiceservices.gov.mt</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No
c) Which authorities provide services for the protection, if necessary, of the child? <i>Please provide additional information if necessary</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government social / welfare agency: <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organisations: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Authority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Police: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courts: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
d) What action can the Central Authority in your State take, where necessary, to ensure the safe return of the child? <i>See Article 7(2) h)</i>	Please explain: <i>Personnel from the Malta Central Authority accompany the child and the person with whom he/she would be travelling to the place of departure and remain there until the plane is airborne. When required Police assistance is requested. Foreign Central Authorities would be requested to assist the Malta Central Authority if and when necessary.</i>
Requested State	
e) Where a judge or administrative authority in your State is ordering the return of the child, what can the authority do to create conditions for a safe return? <i>Please explain where necessary</i> <i>Please tick all boxes which apply</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Make a protective order or other order designed to prevent harm occurring to the child <input type="checkbox"/> Accept undertakings from either party designed to prevent harm occurring to the child Please specify the subject-matter of, and any limitations on, the undertakings the authority can accept: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <i>Request the assistance of the Malta Police Force.</i>
f) Where a judge or administrative authority in your State takes measures to create conditions for a safe return, what can the authority do to ensure compliance with those measures?	<i>Please specify:</i>

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Requesting State	
<p>g) Can judicial or administrative authorities in your State:</p> <p>i. Recognise and enforce protective orders or other orders made in the requested State designed to prevent harm occurring to the child?</p> <p>ii. Insist upon undertakings given in the requested State being carried out?</p> <p>iii. Make any 'mirror orders' necessary as a result of protective measures taken in the requested State?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Please explain where necessary:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon the subject-matter of the undertakings given. Please explain where necessary:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Please explain where necessary:</p>
11.3 Criminal law and the return of the child	
<p>a) Is the wrongful <i>removal</i> of a child by a parent from your State a criminal offence? <i>See Article 3</i> <i>Please specify the relevant legislation and provisions and indicate how the legislation may be accessed, e.g., website, or provide a copy of the legislation</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon the circumstances of the case, please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>b) Is the wrongful <i>retention</i> of a child by a parent outside your State a criminal offence? <i>See Article 3</i> <i>Please specify the relevant legislation and provisions and indicate how the legislation may be accessed, e.g., website, or provide a copy of the legislation</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon the circumstances of the case, please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If you answered 'no' to both question 11.3 a) and b), go to section 12</p>
<p>c) What penalties are available for the wrongful removal or wrongful retention of a child by a parent?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> (1) Pecuniary measures <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Imprisonment <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>d) Please indicate which of the penalties listed above are mandatory.</p>	
<p>e) Can criminal proceedings in your State proceed without a complaint being presented (e.g., by the applicant to the return proceedings or any other concerned person / body)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, please specify:</p>
<p>f) Once initiated, can criminal proceedings in your State be withdrawn or suspended to facilitate the return of a child?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> No, go to section 12.</p>
<p>g) Who is able to initiate the withdrawal or suspension of criminal proceedings relating to the wrongful removal or wrongful retention of a child?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Prosecuting authority <input type="checkbox"/> Police <input type="checkbox"/> The person / body / institution alleging a wrongful removal or retention <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial or administrative authority <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>

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h) Who will determine whether the criminal proceedings are to be withdrawn or suspended?	<input type="checkbox"/> Prosecuting authority <input type="checkbox"/> Police <input type="checkbox"/> The person / body / institution alleging a wrongful removal or retention <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial or administrative authority <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
i) What assistance can the Central Authority provide regarding the suspension or withdrawal of criminal proceedings?	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Refer the matter to prosecuting authority <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):

12 Enforcement of return orders

For best practice in relation to the enforcement of return orders, see the Guide to Good Practice, Part IV – Enforcement available at < www.hcch.net > → Child Abduction Section → Guides to Good Practice.

a) What procedure may be used to enforce a return order?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directions by a judicial or administrative authority to make arrangements for return <input type="checkbox"/> Measures for the immediate execution of final orders <input type="checkbox"/> Issue of a warrant for the apprehension or detention of the child <input type="checkbox"/> Authority for coercive detention or use of force <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
b) Who is generally responsible for exercising supervision over the process of enforcement?	<input type="checkbox"/> The applicant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Public Prosecutor <input type="checkbox"/> The court / administrative authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Police <input type="checkbox"/> No one body has general responsibility <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
c) Where parties do not voluntarily comply with a return order, is it necessary to commence additional proceedings to enforce the order?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, go to question d) <input type="checkbox"/> It depends on the circumstances (please specify): Go to question d) <input type="checkbox"/> No, go to Part IV: Applications relating to access
d) What is the procedure to commence enforcement proceedings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority will apply for enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> The applicant must apply for enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
e) Can the merits of the proceedings for return be reviewed in enforcement proceedings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
f) What coercive measures, if any, are available to enforce a return order?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intervention by government agency (e.g., police, social welfare) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Removal of the child from the abducting party <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Removal of the child from the State <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal charges <input type="checkbox"/> Imprisonment <input type="checkbox"/> Pecuniary measures <input type="checkbox"/> An order placing the child under supervision <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):

Part IV: Applications relating to access

13 Applications through Central Authorities	
13.1 Outgoing applications (Requesting State)	
<p>a) What assistance is available to applicants in your State in the preparation of outgoing access applications? <i>See Articles 7 and 21</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assistance from the Central Authority to apply under Article 21</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Assistance from another authority or body to apply under Article 21</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Referral to a legal representative for assistance to apply under Article 21</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p>
13.2 Incoming applications (Requested State)	
<p>a) Has your State developed a specific form for access applications under the Convention?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Please specify how this form can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy: <i>This form is available on the website of Department for Social Welfare Standards: tps://secure2.gov.mt/SOCIALPOLICY. This Department is the regulatory body in the Social Welfare sector. Go to question c)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, go to question b)</p>
<p>b) If your State does not require a particular form for access applications, what information or documents are requested?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information concerning the identity of the child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name and previous name/s <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date of birth, where available <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone number <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nationality / Nationalities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passport number(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical description (height, eye and hair colour) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photograph (as recent as possible) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information identifying the child's parents (where a parent is not the applicant or respondent to proceedings) <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <i>Authenticated copies of applicable law relating to rights of custody and access, an affidavit of sequence of events which would be the basis for defence, any court orders, marriage certificate-if married, birth certificate of child, divorce and/or separation agreements and any other pertinent document.</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information concerning the identity of the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name and previous name/s <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date of birth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone number

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nationality / Nationalities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passport number(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship of the applicant to the child <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name(s) of legal adviser, if any <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): See <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information concerning the identity of the person with whom the child is presumed to be (the proposed respondent to the application): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name and previous name/s <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date of birth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone number <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nationality / Nationalities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passport number(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical description (height, eye and hair colour) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photograph (as recent as possible) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship of the person to the child <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The grounds upon which the applicant's claim for access to the child is based <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evidence of the applicant's rights of access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An authenticated copy of any relevant decision or agreement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A certificate or an affidavit emanating from the Central Authority, or other competent authority of the State of the child's habitual residence, or from a qualified person, concerning the relevant law of that State <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All available information relating to the whereabouts of the child and the identity of the person with whom the child is presumed to be <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any other relevant document / information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any child protection issues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate (if applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Divorce decree (if applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil and / or criminal proceedings in progress (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
<p>c) Does your Central Authority accept an application and accompanying documentation transmitted by electronic means?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify any requirements for electronically transmitted applications / documentation: <i>The Malta Central Authority requires all of the electronically sent documents to be later</i>

Where applicable, please specify relevant legislation and provisions and indicate how the legislation may be accessed, e.g., website, or provide a copy of the legislation.

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	<p><i>authenticated. The original application has to be sent as soon as possible by mail.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>d) Does the Central Authority require a written authorisation empowering it or a designated representative (e.g., <i>lawyer</i>) to act on behalf of the applicant?</p> <p><i>See Article 28</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the authorisation should be provided:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On the application form or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In a signed statement or declaration</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>e) Does the Central Authority acknowledge receipt of the application?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, acknowledgment generally is provided by:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E-mail</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facsimile</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mail</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

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<p>f) Can the Central Authority proceed with an application where the information provided is incomplete?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the Central Authority will begin processing the application and will immediately inform the requesting Central Authority of what additional information is required to complete the request</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority will not process an application without all of the necessary supporting documentation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority is unable to process the application but will immediately inform the requesting Central Authority of what additional information is required before further action can be taken</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon what type of information is missing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please explain</i>):</p>
<p>g) Who does the Central Authority prefer to communicate with in incoming applications?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The requesting Central Authority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The applicant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The applicant's legal representative</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All of the above</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>h) What measures are taken by or through the Central Authority to attempt to secure agreement between parties in international access cases?</p> <p><i>See Article 21</i></p> <p><i>See Part V: Mediation and Other Forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contact is made with the respondent to the application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mediation and / or other forms of alternative dispute resolution are offered to the parties (See Part V: Mediation and Other Forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>i) How do you ensure that no undue delay results from the measures taken, or attempted, to secure an agreement between parties in international access cases (see question h) above)?</p>	<p><i>Please explain: If all authenticated documentation is sent; contact would immediately be made with the person denying access to try and negotiate an amicable solution. Failing this, immediate legal action would be taken.</i></p>
<p>j) What general assistance can be provided by the Central Authority in respect of arrangements for rights of access?</p> <p><i>See Article 21</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority can facilitate contact with the parties:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Directly through the Central Authority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Through intermediaries</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority can provide information to the applicant on services available, e.g., mediation, legal services, social welfare services</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>k) Will the Central Authority's assistance depend on:</p> <p><i>See paragraph 4.6 of the General Principles and Guide to Good Practice on Transfrontier Contact Concerning Children (available at < www.hcch.net > → Child Abduction Section → Guides to Good Practice) recommending that Central Authorities should make their services available in all cases where cross-frontier contact rights of parents and children are in issue</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existence of a judicial or administrative order establishing or confirming rights of access</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>

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<p>l) Can an applicant commence proceedings in your State with respect to access without using the Central Authority channel?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes; If so, please explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where an applicant can obtain information about commencing proceedings: <i>information can be obtained from the CA</i> • What role, if any, the Central Authority has in these proceedings: <i>information purposes only</i> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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14 Locating a child and preventing removal

<p>a) Are the responses to the questions in this section the same as for applications for return (see section 7)?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, go to section 15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, continue to question b)</p>
<p>b) What evidence / information does your State require regarding the child's whereabouts to begin to assist with locating the child?</p> <p><i>Please explain where necessary</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Evidence that the child entered your State (e.g., evidence that the child boarded an aeroplane bound for your State):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Information from the applicant as to why he / she believes the child is in your State:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No information or evidence is required; searches for the child can begin upon request:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please explain</i>):</p>
<p>c) What mechanisms or sources of information are available in your State to discover the whereabouts of a child who is the subject of an access application?</p> <p><i>Please indicate in the space provided any associated costs for the applicant or any other necessary information</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> (1) Private location services:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (2) Population Register:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (3) Employment Register:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (4) Information maintained by other government agencies (e.g., immigration, social welfare):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (5) Police:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (6) INTERPOL:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (7) Court orders to compel the production of information on the whereabouts of the child:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (8) Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>d) Please indicate who is responsible for arranging the measures indicated above in question c) by listing the relevant number next to the responsible person or authority.</p> <p><i>E.g., Central Authority: 2, 3 The applicant's representative: 6</i></p>	<p>Central Authority:</p> <p>The applicant:</p> <p>The applicant's representative:</p> <p>Other (please specify):</p>
<p>e) Please indicate by listing numbers which of the measures above in question c) need an order from a competent authority?</p>	

15 Legal representation and assistance

15.1 General

<p>a) Are the responses to the questions in this section the same as for applications for return (see section 8)?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, go to section 15.2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, continue to question b)</p>
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<p>b) Does the Central Authority provide legal advice regarding access applications?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No, however: <input type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority will refer the applicant to the appropriate person or authority to obtain legal advice <input type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority will provide information that is of a general nature about laws and procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>c) Is legal representation needed in access proceedings? <i>Please explain where necessary</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, <input type="checkbox"/> No, but advisable <input type="checkbox"/> No,</p>
<p>d) What is the role of the Central Authority in making arrangements to progress the application? <i>See Article 7(2) g)</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The applicant is required to make his / her own arrangements for legal representation, but the Central Authority will: <input type="checkbox"/> Provide the applicant with a list of lawyers <input type="checkbox"/> Provide the applicant with a list of free or reduced rate lawyers <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Legal representation is not required. The Central Authority ensures the application is forwarded to the competent authority for action. Please provide additional information if necessary: <input type="checkbox"/> Legal representation is arranged by the Central Authority. Representation is provided by: <input type="checkbox"/> Central Authority lawyers <input type="checkbox"/> Private lawyers <input type="checkbox"/> Public prosecutor <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>15.2 Free or reduced rate legal assistance</p>	
<p>a) Are the responses to the questions in this section the same as for applications for return (see section 8.2)?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, go to section 16 <input type="checkbox"/> No, go to question b)</p>
<p>b) Is free or reduced rate legal assistance for access applications available for applicants located in another Contracting State?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, free legal assistance; go to question d) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, reduced rate legal assistance; go to question d) <input type="checkbox"/> No; go to question c)</p>
<p>c) If free or reduced rate legal assistance is <u>not</u> available, in what other ways can your State assist an applicant financially?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> There is a system of costs ordering the respondent to pay <input type="checkbox"/> Pro bono legal assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all Go to section 16</p>
<p>d) Is the applicant required to complete an application form for free or reduced rate legal assistance?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <i>Please specify how application forms can be obtained (e.g., website) or attach a copy:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

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e) Please indicate on what basis free or reduced rate legal assistance may be available. <i>Please explain where necessary</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Income of the applicant <input type="checkbox"/> Assets of the applicant <input type="checkbox"/> Country of residence of the applicant <input type="checkbox"/> Likelihood of success of the proceedings <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
f) Which costs are covered by free or reduced rate legal assistance? <i>Please explain where necessary</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1) Mediation <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Translation <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Interpreters <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Service of documents <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Costs associated with locating the child <input type="checkbox"/> (6) Court fees <input type="checkbox"/> (7) Travel costs for the return of the child (see question 11.1 c)) <input type="checkbox"/> (8) Other (<i>please specify</i>):
g) Please list the corresponding numbers of the costs, if any, listed in question f) which are covered by the Central Authority?	
h) Is free or reduced rate legal assistance available for the appeal of decisions?	<input type="checkbox"/> No, go to question j) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, free legal assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, reduced rate legal assistance
i) Is a new application for free or reduced rate legal assistance needed for appeals?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
j) Is free or reduced rate legal assistance available for proceedings needed to enforce an access order?	<input type="checkbox"/> No, go to section 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, free legal assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, reduced rate legal assistance
k) Is a new application for free or reduced rate legal assistance needed for enforcement applications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

16 Rights of access

16.1 Determining rights of access

a) Which legislation in your State governs the establishment and exercise of rights of access? <i>See Article 5</i>	<i>Please specify how legislation can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy: Subtitle I and Subtitle III of Title I of Book First of the Civil Code (Cap. 16). This can be accessed on website: www.justiceservices.gov.mt</i>
b) Which judicial and/or administrative authorities can make decisions with respect to rights of access?	<i>Family Court</i>
c) In your State, who may seek rights of access in respect of a child?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-custodial parent <input type="checkbox"/> Non-custodial step-parent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grandparent <input type="checkbox"/> Other family member (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):

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<p>d) Are the best interests of the child a primary consideration in access proceedings? <i>See Articles 3 and 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child</i> <i>Please explain, if necessary</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, please specify what are the primary considerations:</p>
<p>16.2 Exercising rights of access</p>	
<p>a) What guarantees and safeguards do your courts or administrative authorities have to enable them to secure rights of access for children and applicants?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surrender of passport or travel documents <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant to regularly report to police or other authority <input type="checkbox"/> Deposit of a monetary bond or surety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supervised contact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Placing restrictions on how contact is exercised <input type="checkbox"/> Signing an affidavit or religious oath <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provision of a detailed itinerary with contact details <input type="checkbox"/> Requesting foreign consulates / embassies should not issue new passports / travel documents for the child <input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p>
<p>16.3 Supervised access</p>	
<p>a) Do facilities exist in your State for the exercise of rights of access in a supervised environment?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please explain if necessary: <i>The supervised access may take place at the premises of the national Agency APPOGG in the presence of qualified social workers. Note that this Agency has as its ultimate aim the enhancement of the lives of people in need, through the provision and availability of professional care and support. For more information please visit website: http://www.appogg.gov.mt</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No, go to section 17</p>
<p>b) Under what circumstances is access supervised?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Where it is agreed between the parties <input type="checkbox"/> Where it is requested by one party As a result of a decision by a social welfare agency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By order of a judicial or administrative authority <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>c) Which authorities provide supervised access?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government social / welfare agency: <i>Agency APPOGG. Note that this Agency has as its ultimate aim the enhancement of the lives of people in need, through the provision and availability of professional care and support. For more information please visit website: http://www.appogg.gov.mt</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Non-government organisations: <input type="checkbox"/> Central Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> Police: <input type="checkbox"/> Courts: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>d) Who will pay the costs associated with exercising supervised access?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The applicant <input type="checkbox"/> The person(s) with day to day care of the child <input type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority <input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon the order of the judicial or administrative authority <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>

Where applicable, please specify relevant legislation and provisions and indicate how the legislation may be accessed, e.g., website, or provide a copy of the legislation.

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17 Proceedings for access/contact	
17.1 Organisation of competent authorities	
a) Does your State limit the judicial or administrative authorities who can hear access applications under the Convention? (i.e., has your State 'concentrated jurisdiction' in respect of access applications under the Convention)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
b) Please state exactly how many courts or administrative authorities and how many judges or relevant decision-makers can hear access applications under the Convention?	<i>Courts / Administrative Authorities: Family Court</i> <i>Judges / Decision-makers: 2</i>
c) Which courts or administrative authorities can make decisions in applications relating to access under the Convention?	<i>Family Court</i>
d) Are the judges or administrative authorities who decide access applications in your State specialists in family law? <i>See also section 22 on Training below</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
17.2 Procedures	
a) Is a special procedure applied by judicial or administrative authorities to access applications made under Article 21 of the Convention? <i>Please explain where necessary</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No:
b) Generally, how long are proceedings relating to access from commencement to final order (excluding appeals)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Up to 6 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 6 to 12 weeks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 to 6 months <input type="checkbox"/> Longer than 6 months
c) Is the applicant generally required to participate in proceedings relating to access? <i>Please note that attendance in person is not required under the Convention (see paragraph 6.5.3 of the Guide to Good Practice, Part II - Implementing Measures)</i>	Yes, please specify in what circumstances: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, but advisable No, if the applicant is the parent or legal guardian
d) Are facilities available to enable an applicant to participate in access proceedings from outside your State?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Video-conference <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Through a legal representative <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> No
e) If the applicant does participate in access proceedings in your State, is simultaneous interpretation available, where necessary?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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<p>f) Where the facilities set out in questions d) and e) above are required, who is responsible for the cost of providing such facilities?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The applicant <input type="checkbox"/> The requesting Central Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The requested Central Authority <input type="checkbox"/> The court / administrative authority <input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon the facility used (please specify): <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p>
<p>g) Can special immigration arrangements (e.g., visas) be made to enable the applicant to attend access proceedings in person if he / she so wishes?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (please specify): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>17.3 Participation of the child</p>	
<p>a) Are the responses to the questions in this section the same as for applications for return (see section 10.4)?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, go to section 17.4 <input type="checkbox"/> No, continue to question b)</p>
<p>b) Does the child have an opportunity to be heard in access proceedings under the Convention in your State?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always; go to question c) It depends upon the particular case and is always at the discretion of the judge / authority hearing the case. <i>Please explain if necessary:</i> Go to question c) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Go to question c) <input type="checkbox"/> No, never; go to section 17.4</p>
<p>c) How can the child be heard in access proceedings?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Direct interview with judge <input type="checkbox"/> Report prepared for court by independent expert <input type="checkbox"/> Child's own legal representative <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):</p>
<p>d) How does your State ensure that no undue delay results from hearing the child in the course of access proceedings?</p>	<p>Please explain: <i>The child is usually heard in the judge's chamber during a hearing.</i></p>
<p>e) Can judicial or administrative authorities appoint a legal representative (attorney or <i>guardian ad litem</i>) to represent the child's best interests?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify under what circumstances: <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>17.4 Appeals</p>	
<p>a) Can a decision in applications relating to access be appealed?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Only in certain circumstances (please specify): If you ticked either of the boxes above, please specify how many levels of appeal exist and to which courts / authorities an appeal may be made: <input type="checkbox"/> No, go to section 18</p>

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<p>b) Is there an expedited procedure or special process of appeal for Hague access cases? <i>Please specify the legislation and/or rules which provide for this and how they can be obtained (e.g., website) or attach a copy</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <i>Rule 19 of the Court Practice and Procedure and Good Order Rules (L.N.279/08, as amended by L.N. 333/08) on Proceedings and registration of decisions under the Act. This is accessible on website: www.justiceservices.gov.mt</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>c) Who can initiate the appeal process?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Either party to the proceedings</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Central Authority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Public Prosecutor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>d) Is leave to appeal required?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In certain circumstances (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>e) If an access order is made, can it be suspended (<i>i.e.</i>, 'stayed') pending an appeal?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, an access order is <i>automatically</i> suspended pending an appeal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, an access order can be suspended pending an appeal at the request of either party</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, an access order can be suspended pending an appeal at the request of either party and after determination by the relevant judge / authority.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>f) Is there a time limit by which an appeal must be filed in access proceedings?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: The time limit: <i>Eight working days</i> From when the time limit starts to run (<i>e.g.</i>, from the date of judgment, from the date of the order, from the date the decision is notified to the parties etc.): <i>From the date of judgement.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>g) Generally, what is the expected time within which appeals are filed and decided?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Up to 3 months</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3 to 6 months</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Longer than 6 months</p>
<p>h) Is the applicant generally required to participate in appeal proceedings? <i>Please note that attendance in person is not required under the Convention (see paragraph 6.5.3 of the Guide to Good Practice, Part II - Implementing Measures).</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify in what circumstances:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>i) Is the applicant able to participate in proceedings without being physically present?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Video-conference</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Telephone</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Through a legal representative</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

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j) If the applicant does participate in appeal proceedings in your State, is simultaneous interpretation available, where necessary?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
k) Where the facilities set out in questions i) and j) above are required, who is responsible for the cost of providing such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/> The applicant <input type="checkbox"/> The requesting Central Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The requested Central Authority <input type="checkbox"/> The court / administrative authority <input type="checkbox"/> It depends upon the facility used (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
l) Can special immigration arrangements (e.g., visas) be made to enable the applicant to attend appeal proceedings in person if he / she so wishes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

18 Enforcement of rights of access

a) Can an order relating to rights of access made in another State be registered for enforcement or be declared enforceable in your State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, all orders made in another State are recognised and are enforceable. <i>Please explain or specify how relevant legislation can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy:</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, if there is an international agreement in place with the foreign State. Please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brussels II a (Council Regulation (EC) 2201/2003 of 27 November 2003) <input type="checkbox"/> 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, subject to conditions. Please explain or specify how relevant legislation can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy: <input type="checkbox"/> No, however the party can seek to have "mirror orders" made by the judicial or administrative authorities. <input type="checkbox"/> No
b) Can an agreement relating to rights of access made in another State be registered for enforcement or be declared enforceable in your State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, if there is an international agreement in place with the foreign State. Please specify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brussels II a (Council Regulation (EC) 2201/2003 of 27 November 2003) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, subject to conditions. Please explain: <input type="checkbox"/> No, however the party can seek to have "mirror orders" made by the judicial or administrative authorities. <input type="checkbox"/> No
c) Can a party seek to have orders made in your State in respect of a decision from another State on rights of access?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the party must apply to the judicial or administrative authorities. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the Central Authority will apply to the judicial or administrative authorities on behalf of the party. <input type="checkbox"/> No

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<p>d) What is the procedure for the applicant to commence enforcement proceedings?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority can apply for enforcement on behalf of the applicant.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The applicant must seek enforcement.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>e) What coercive measures, if any, are available to enforce an order relating to access and contact?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intervention by government agency (e.g., <i>police, social welfare, etc.</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Removal of the child from the custodial person(s)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Criminal charges</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Imprisonment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pecuniary measures</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> An order placing the child under supervision</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>f) Does the application of coercive measures require a separate order from judicial or administrative authorities?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. If so, who must apply for the order:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The applicant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Public Prosecutor</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Police</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

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Part V: Mediation and Other Forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution

19 Mediation	
<i>For best practice in relation to mediation in the context of the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention see the forthcoming Guide to Good Practice under the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention – Part V – Mediation, available at < www.hcch.net > → Child Abduction Section → Guides to Good Practice.</i>	
19.1 Mediation services	
<p>a) What mediation services/structures exist in your State for the mediation of international family disputes which are within the scope of the Convention?</p> <p><i>See Articles 7(2) c) and 10</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Private mediation services/structures</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mediation services/structures within the judicial or administrative system (<i>please explain</i>):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mediation services/structures provided by NGOs (please specify the NGO and give brief details of the service they provide):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please explain</i>):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> There are no mediation services/structures available, go to section 20</p>
<p>b) Is co-mediation (<i>i.e.</i> mediation involving two mediators – one from each State) available in your State for the mediation of international family disputes which are within the scope of the Convention?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (please provide brief details of any available scheme e.g., bi-national mediation programmes):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>c) What other family matters can be dealt with in mediation in your State?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Custody</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Access/Contact</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Relocation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child support</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Property disputes on relationship breakdown</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
19.2 Legislation and/or rules on mediation	
<p>a) Is mediation in family matters regulated in your State?</p> <p><i>Please tick all boxes which apply</i></p> <p><i>EU Member States, excluding Denmark, should note that Directive 2008/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters will apply and should reference the laws, regulations and administrative provisions brought into force to comply with this Directive</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, there is general legislation relating to mediation which also applies to mediation in family matters. Please specify how the legislation can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, there is specific legislation relating to mediation in family matters. Please specify how the legislation can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, there is specific legislation relating to mediation in international family matters within the scope of the Convention. Please specify how the legislation can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, mediation in family matters is regulated in another way (please specify):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, go to section 19.3</p>

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<p>b) Please indicate which matters are regulated by the legislation/rules in relation to mediation in your State. <i>Please explain where necessary</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Formal accreditation of mediators <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary qualifications/experience of mediators <input type="checkbox"/> Process of mediation <input type="checkbox"/> Confidentiality of mediation <input type="checkbox"/> Status and enforceability of mediated agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing the child in the mediation of disputes relating to him/her <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of mediation in disputes involving allegations of domestic violence or other forms of abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please explain</i>):</p>
<p>19.3 Access to mediation</p>	
<p>a) How can individuals access information identifying suitable mediators in your State?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Lists of mediators are available: <input type="checkbox"/> Through the Central Authority (see also question 19.3 b) below) <input type="checkbox"/> Via accrediting bodies (<i>please provide details</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Through other sources (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Other methods of accessing information are available (<i>please specify</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> No general information is available. Individuals must carry out research themselves.</p>
<p>b) What role, if any, does the Central Authority play in facilitating mediation in disputes falling within the scope of the Convention? <i>See Articles 7(2) c) and 10</i> <i>Please explain where necessary</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Provides information about mediation to the parties <input type="checkbox"/> Refers parties to accredited professionals to undertake mediation <input type="checkbox"/> Seeks orders from judicial or administrative authorities for mediation between the parties <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please explain</i>)</p>
<p>c) How are the costs of mediation met in disputes which are within the scope of the Convention? <i>Please explain if necessary</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> If an individual qualifies for free or reduced rate legal assistance, this will <i>always</i> include the cost of mediation (see question 8.2 e) above) <input type="checkbox"/> If an individual qualifies for free or reduced rate legal assistance, this <i>may</i> cover the cost of mediation (see question 8.2 e) above) (<i>please specify</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> The Central Authority will meet the costs associated with mediation <input type="checkbox"/> Other sources of funding are available (<i>please specify</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> The costs of mediation must be borne by the parties <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please explain</i>)</p>

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19.4 The mediation process	
<p>a) At what stage of a return or access application is mediation available?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> At all stages, including prior to any application and as a preventive measure where necessary (<i>provide an explanation if necessary</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only before an application has been made to the relevant Central Authority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only after an application has been made to the relevant Central Authority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only before an application has been filed in the relevant court or administrative authority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only after an application has been filed in the relevant court or administrative authority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please explain</i>)</p>
<p>b) Where legal proceedings have commenced, can such proceedings be suspended while mediation is undertaken?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, provide additional information if necessary:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>c) How, if at all, are the views of the subject child(ren) taken into account in mediation in your State?</p> <p><i>See also question 19.2 b) above</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Rules/legislation require that, if the child is of a sufficient age/maturity, the child must be seen by the mediator (<i>see also question 19.2 b) above</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rules/legislation require that, if the child is of a sufficient age/maturity, the views of the child must be communicated to the mediator but this need not be directly (<i>see also question 19.2 b) above</i>). Please explain the method(s) used</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It is within the discretion of the particular mediator</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The child's views play no part in the mediation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please explain</i>)</p>
<p>d) What safeguards are available in your State where allegations of domestic violence and/or other forms of abuse are made in a dispute which goes to mediation?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> (1) Address and other contact details of the alleged victim are kept confidential</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (2) The mediation is conducted in separate rooms</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (3) Alarm systems or 'panic buttons' are in place in mediation rooms</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (4) There is a visible security presence in the building where mediation is carried out</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (5) Co-mediation is recommended in such cases</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (6) Other (<i>please specify</i>)</p>
<p>e) Please specify (by listing numbers) which, if any, of the safeguards listed in question 19.4 e) above are required by rules/legislation in your State and which safeguards are left to the discretion of the mediator?</p> <p><i>See also question 19.2 b) above</i></p>	<p>Required by legislation/rules of State:</p> <p>Left to the discretion of the mediator:</p>

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f) Can judicial or administrative authorities take provisional or interim measures to enable an applicant to exercise contact or access in respect of a child while mediation is ongoing?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
19.5 The enforceability of mediated agreements	
a) Are there legal restrictions on the content of mediated agreements regarding family law matters in your State?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> No
b) Which additional formalities, if any, are required in your State to make mediated agreements in a family dispute involving children enforceable?	<input type="checkbox"/> (1) Notarisation of the mediated agreement <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Court approval of the mediated agreement Please specify competent court: <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Registration of the mediated agreement with the court. Please specify competent court: <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Other (<i>please specify</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> (5) No additional formalities are required. Mediated agreements in family disputes involving children are immediately enforceable <i>without</i> any additional formalities being required If you ticked one or both of options (2) or (3) above, please go to question 19.5 c). If not, please proceed to question 19.5 d)
c) Is the mediated agreement, once approved by or registered with a court, treated as an order of that court? <i>Please explain where necessary</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, <i>Go to question 19.5 e)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No, <i>Go to question 19.5 d)</i>
d) Is it possible to turn a mediated agreement into a court order?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please briefly explain what steps are required and which court would be competent: <input type="checkbox"/> No
e) Who bears the cost of rendering the mediated agreement enforceable? Please list the number from question 19.5 b) next to the relevant answer.	The parties must pay: The cost is covered by any free or reduced rate legal assistance provided to one/both parties: Central Authority: There are no costs:
19.6 Agreements mediated in another State	
a) Can an agreement mediated in another State in a family dispute involving children, be approved by a court or otherwise formalised in your State in the same manner as an agreement mediated in your State (see question 19.5 b) above)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No, a different method for formalising the agreement must be used. Please specify: <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not possible to formalise an agreement mediated in another State <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):

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20 Other Forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR")	
<p>a) What other forms of ADR are available in your State for the resolution of international family disputes falling within the scope of the Convention? <i>See Articles 7(2) c) and 10</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> (1) In-court conciliation <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Out-of-court conciliation <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Collaborative law <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Early Neutral Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Other (<i>please specify</i>): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (5) No other forms of ADR are available, go to Part VI: Direct Judicial Communications</p>
<p>b) What services/structures exist in respect of the other forms of ADR available in your State? Please list the relevant number(s) from question 20 a) above next to the service/structure which is available in respect of that method of ADR.</p>	<p>Private ADR services/structures: ADR services/structures within the judicial or administrative system (<i>please explain</i>): ADR services/structures provided by NGOs (<i>please specify the NGO and give brief details of the service they provide</i>): Other (<i>please explain</i>):</p>
<p>c) In relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legislation on ADR • access to ADR • the ADR process • the enforceability of agreements reached as a result of ADR; and • the enforceability of agreements reached as a result of ADR in another State <p>are the responses the same as for the section on mediation above – see sections 19.2 to 19.6?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, go to Part VI: Direct Judicial Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Some of the responses are the same, go to question d) <input type="checkbox"/> No, go to question d)</p>
<p>d) Please briefly specify in what way the matters set out above are different in relation to other forms of ADR in your State.</p>	

Part VI: Direct Judicial Communications

21 Direct Judicial Communications	
<p>a) Has a member of the International Hague Network of Judges been designated for your State?</p> <p>For more information, go to < www.hcch.net > → Child Abduction Section → Judicial Communications</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>Name/s: Please do not list the contact details of the judge(s) here. Instead, please ensure that the name, position, court and contact details have been provided to the Permanent Bureau</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>b) Is there a legislative basis upon which judges in your State can engage in direct judicial communications?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, <i>please specify how the legislation can be accessed (e.g., website) or attach a copy:</i> Go to Part VII: Other information</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, go to question c)</p>
<p>c) In the absence of legislation, can judges in your State engage in direct judicial communications?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

Part VII: Other information

22 Training	
<p>a) What measures are being taken to ensure that persons responsible for implementing the Convention (e.g., judges, lawyers and Central Authority personnel) have received appropriate information and training?</p> <p><i>Please contact the Permanent Bureau for information in relation to forms of assistance which may be available for this purpose</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training as required for Central Authority staff</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training as required for responsible authorities</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Updates as required on legal developments related to the Convention provided to staff responsible for its implementation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Training as required for lawyers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Training as required for law enforcement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p> <p>Specifically in respect of judges:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sending a basic package of information on the 1980 Convention to judges</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Training through a dedicated judicial studies board</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation in judicial training seminars</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation in the International Hague Network of Judges</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessing the Judges' Newsletter on International Child Protection (available at < www.hcch.net > → Child Abduction Section → Judges' Newsletter on International Child Protection)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):</p>
<p>b) Is your Central Authority willing to participation in a "twinning arrangement" with another Central Authority?</p> <p><i>A "twinning arrangement" is where two Central Authorities engage in discussions and / or visits to exchange information with the view to improving operations in both Central Authorities</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

23 Other implementing measures	
<p>a) Does your State use iChild?</p> <p>For more information, go to < www.hcch.net > → Child Abduction Section → iChild</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>b) Does your State use another electronic case management system other than iChild?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please specify:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>c) Does your State use INCASTAT?</p> <p>For more information, go to < www.hcch.net > → Child Abduction Section → INCASTAT</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>d) Does your State use INCADAT?</p> <p>For more information, go to < www.incadat.com ></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

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e) Are statistics related to applications under the Convention in your State publicly available?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, <i>please specify how the statistics can be accessed (e.g., website, annual report):</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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24 Other services

a) What general services / resources are available in your State to assist those involved in international child abduction cases? <i>Please indicate, where available, contact details and websites and costs for such services</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Social Service (ISS) (<i>please provide contact information</i>): <input type="checkbox"/> Specific NGOs dealing with child abduction: <input type="checkbox"/> Financial assistance: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social / welfare assistance: <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration services: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>):
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