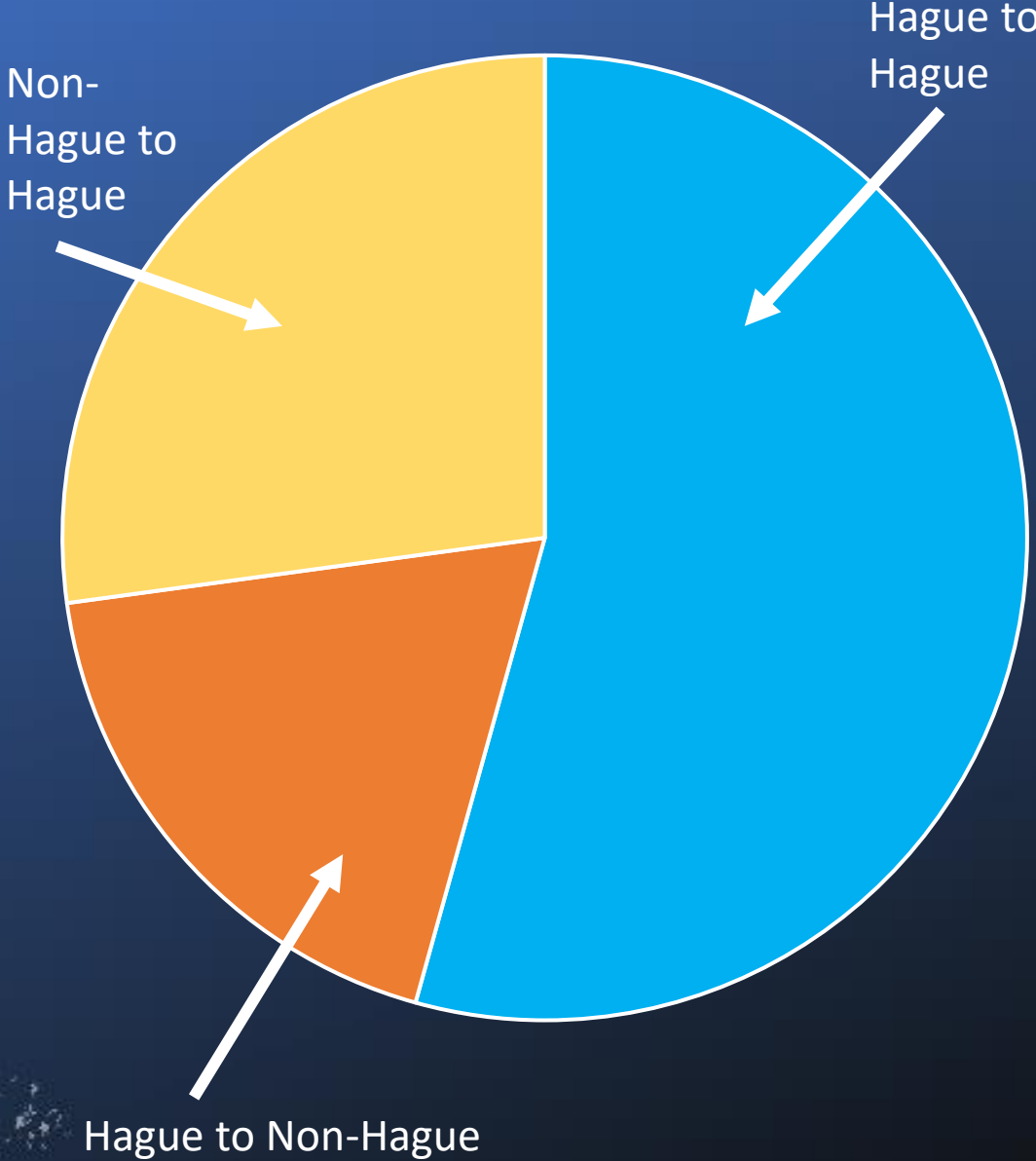


Mediation in Cases of International Relocation

*reunite International
Child Abduction Centre*

Relocation Cases reported through Advice Line 2024

- Hague to Hague = 44 cases
- Hague to Non-Hague = 15 cases
- Non-Hague to Hague = 22 cases



Challenges within the court relocation process

- Lengthy court proceedings
- Costly court proceedings
- Conflict escalates
- Not necessarily focused on the best interests of the child
- Voice of the child not heard
- Impractical/unreasonable court orders for relocation
- Lack of enforceability of court orders for relocation



Do No Harm

Mediation practice is governed by principles which provide the framework for ethical practice. Mediators should:

- provide a safe and balanced environment for discussions
- ensure that mediation is a positive choice for those who use it
- ensure that imbalances of power can be addressed
- respect individuals and their right to make their own decisions
- respect their right to confidentiality of discussions (with exceptions)
- take responsibility for ensuring the safety of all, especially vulnerable adults, children and young people

Benefits of Mediation

- Parents stay in control over decisions made affecting their family
- The process is confidential, leaving parents free to say what they really think and resolve practical and emotional issues
- It is quicker than the Court process
- It is less expensive than the Court process
- It is a lot less stressful (providing parents are able to negotiate)
- Children can be consulted confidentially without reports going to the Court
- There is more flexibility around the parents agreeing on a number of issues

Benefits of Mediation

- Reach an agreement
- Open/improve communication
- Explore options
- Better understanding of positions, needs and wishes
- Preparing for a judicial decision



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