

## **PANAMA**

### **The applications**

#### **1. The number of applications**

According to the Central Authority for Panama, they received 4 incoming return and 1 incoming access application in 1999, making a total of 5 incoming applications. Additionally, they made 7 outgoing return but no outgoing access applications in that year. Altogether, therefore, the Central Authority for Panama handled 12 new applications in 1999.

#### **2. The Contracting States which made the applications**

Two return applications were received from the USA, one from Colombia and the other from Mexico.

The access application was received from Mexico.

### **The taking person / respondent**

#### **3. The gender of the taking person / respondent**

In two of the return applications the taking person was male, in the other two the taking person was female.

In the access application the taking person was female.

#### **4. The nationality of the taking person / respondent**

In three of the return applications the taking person had Panamanian nationality.

In the access application, the respondent was Panamanian.

#### **5. The gender and nationality of the taking person combined**

In the return applications, both females and one male taking person had Panamanian nationality, one male taking person had a different nationality.

In the access application, the respondent was a female Panamanian.

### **The children**

#### **6. The total number of children**

There were 5 children involved in the 4 return applications and 1 child involved in the 1 access application. Altogether, therefore, 6 children were involved in new incoming applications received by Panama in 1999.

#### **7. Single children or sibling groups.**

One application for return involved a sibling group of 2 children, the other 3 involved a single child.

The access application involved a single child.

### **8. The age of the children**

In the return applications all children were aged between 5 and 9 years old. Globally, at 42%, the greatest proportion of children was in this age category.

In the access application the child was aged between 0 and 4 years.

### **The outcomes**

#### **9. Overall outcomes**

As of May 2001, three of the return applications were still pending. The other was refused. In other words no application has yet resulted in a child being returned. The fact that 3 applications were still pending by May 2001 may give pause for thought.

The access application was also still pending.

#### **10. The reasons for the judicial refusal**

The reason for the judicial refusal was because the child's habitual residence was in Panama.