

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.