

## **Regulation of traffic in, abduction and return of minors in The Bahamas**

The Department of Social Services has responsibilities for the Care and Protection of all Children in The Bahamas inclusive of children who are victims of trafficking and abduction.

- **Legislation**

In 1993, the Bahamas enacted the International Child Abduction Act. This Act seeks to give effect to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and for matters connected therewith. Applications under this Act is made to the Supreme Court

In 2008, The Bahamas enacted the Trafficking In Persons (Prevention and Suppression) Act 2008. This Act seeks to facilitate The Bahamas fulfilling obligations under the United Nations Protocol Respecting The Trafficking in persons and to provide comprehensive measures to combat that activity. Section 3 of the Act creates the offence Trafficking in Persons. Section 4 of the Act creates the offence of Unlawful Withholding of Identification Papers. Section 5 of the Act creates the offence of Transporting A Person For the Purpose of Exploiting Such person's prostitution. The Act also makes specific provisions for the Assistance and Protection for victims.

The Sexual Offences Act also creates offences relative to the Abduction. Section 22 of this Act makes provision for Abduction of Unmarried Persons Under Sixteen Years. Section 23 makes provision for Abduction of Unmarried Persons Between Sixteen and Eighteen years. Section 24 of The Act creates an offence relative to Abetment in Cases of Abduction.

The Penal Code also creates certain offences relative to the immoral traffic and offences against females and children. Further, this Act creates the offence kidnapping. Section 282 of the Penal Code creates the offence of kidnapping. Section 283 of this Act creates the offence of Child Stealing and section 284 creates the offence of compulsion to marriage.