

International Social Service Canada

Social work beyond borders



International
Social Service
Canada

Service Social
International
Canada

The ISS network

- ISS General Secretariat Geneva, Switzerland
- Over 130 partners worldwide (each of them unique)
- ISS is 101 years (founded by 4 social workers)





ISS Canada

Mission

- ISS Canada mobilizes international networks to **protect** and **reunite** and **advocate** for children, individuals and families separated by borders.

FYI

- Established in 1979 (incorporated as NGO)
- Bilingual (French/English)
- Pan-Canadian Board members



What we do:

Protect



- Assessment of children overseas
- Obtain RC and PCC (for foster, adoption, employment, etc.)
- Obtain previous files/Documentation (when available)
- Abuse Alerts
- Adult Protection
- International Child Abduction

Reunite



- Biological Parent Assessment for permanent, temporary placement or visits
- Post Adoption Tracing
- Family Reunification
- Kindship Assessment for permanent, temporary placement or visits
- Family Finding for children in care



Support

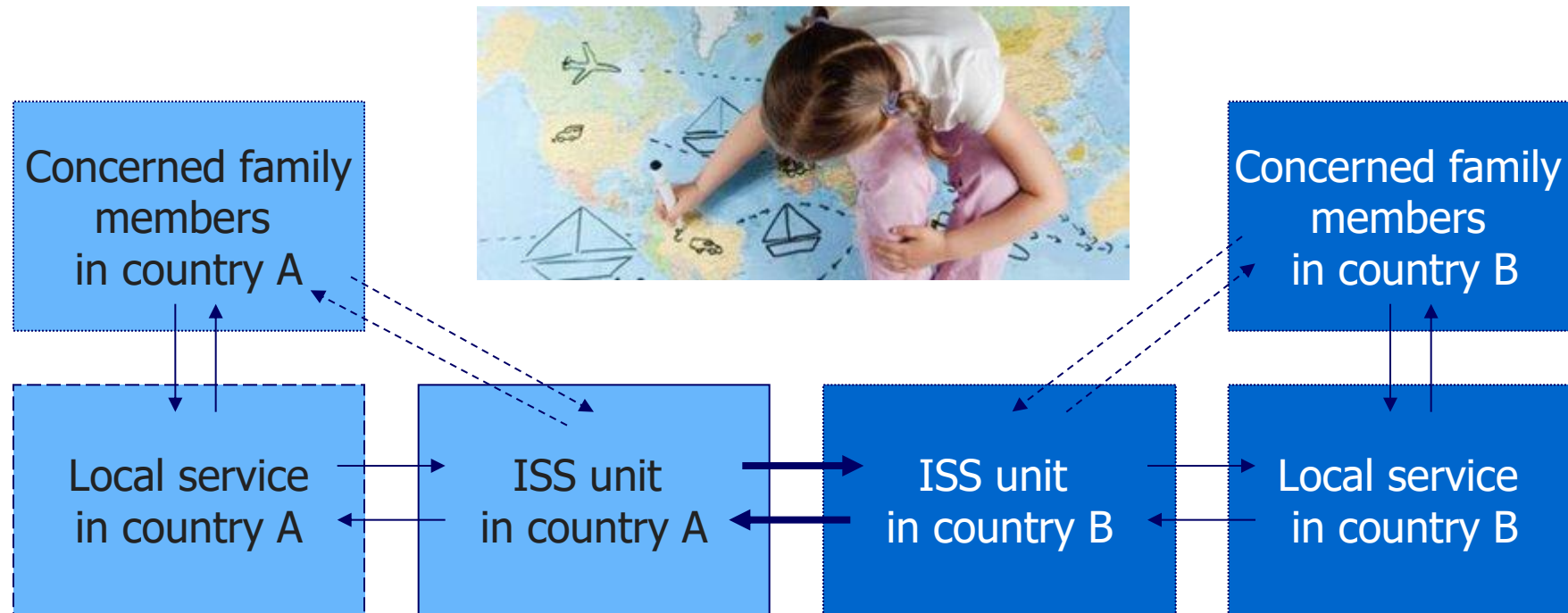
- Deportation/Immigration
- Community Assessments
- Unaccompanied Minors
- Advocacy (child's rights and human rights)



Mediate

- International Child Custody
- International Child Abduction
- Custody and Access

Channelling cases through the ISS Network



Kinship Placement: 7 Principles and recommended Practice

1. Children's rights
2. Equal Opportunity
3. Local Expertise
4. No bias
5. Identity
6. Adequate planning
7. Accountability

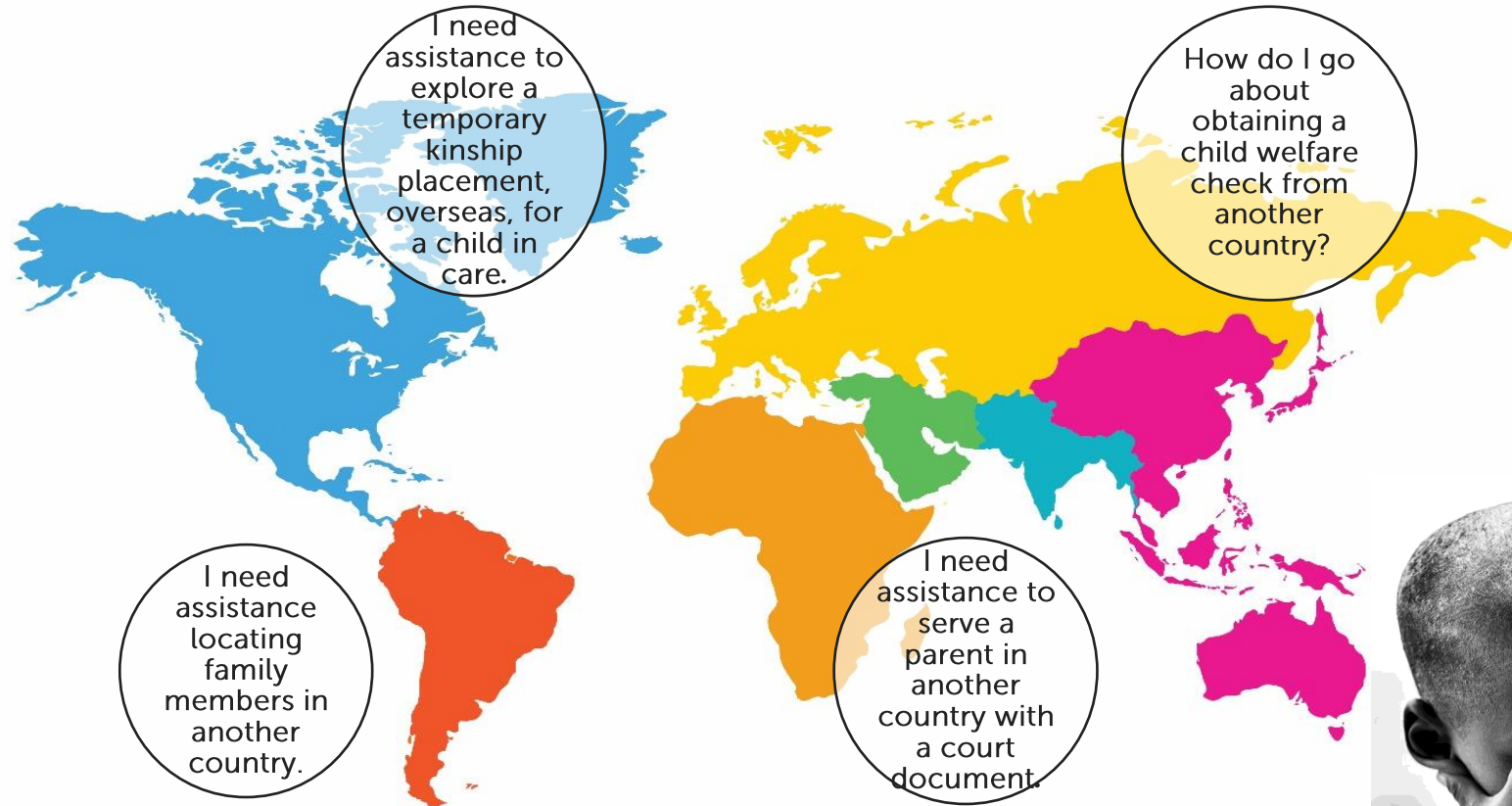
**Full paper and shor 2 page document available



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International case examples





Example of Kinship Placement

- Two young children who had recently immigrated to Canada with their parents from China, were placed in care in when their father killed their mother.
 - The children were placed into care in Canada.
 - Maternal grandparents in China were contacted by the local police to advise them of the situation. Grandparents inquired about the children.
 - The Canadian child protection agency wanted to plan for the children who were traumatized and had no relatives in Canada finding a suitable loving home was urgent.
 - ISS Canada contacted the ISS Hong Kong Branch who met with the maternal grandparents within the week. ISS Hong Kong prepared a home study that was favourable to the grandparents. Given the special circumstances the grandparents were allowed to come and get the children.
 - Grandmother came to Canada for the funeral of her daughter and took her grandchildren home with her.
 - Some time later I received the best THANK YOU...
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A sister's love beyond borders

- Two children, aged four and two, were urgently removed from parental care due to neglect and lack of supervision by their mother. They were placed in a foster home.
- The children came from two different relationships. Unfortunately, both biological fathers had passed away and the children had no other family to care for them in the city where they lived.
- Youth Protection was able to identify a half-sister, a resident of Canada. She was adamant, even though she didn't expect it at this point in her life (in her twenties), she wanted to give her siblings a stable and loving home.
- The children's sister and her partner met with the evaluator and shared their stories, goals and current situation. The home evaluation was one of the brightest home studies we had seen.
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- The sister also explained that she has a good support system in her extended family, friends and community. The evaluation was so positive that the child welfare agency in the other country did not hesitate, the children would move to Canada and be with their sister.
- A follow-up report was sent to us a few months later. The children flourished under the care of their sister. The children were warmly welcomed into the family, and the young family received a lot of support from extended family members. The worker concluded her report by saying: ***These children are very happy with their new home!***



Good practice for international cases:

- Do not act too quickly in cases/decisions that involve other countries
 - Do not hesitate to take the time to seek the advice of ISS in certain international cases
 - Send ISS the cases sooner than later, other countries have their own systems in place and we need to be patient/understanding that some services may take longer (travel time, bureaucracy etc.)
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- Stay connected: LinkedIn, Instagram, Newsletter (The Link), annual report
- Tell your colleagues about us
- Call us with questions: possible cases and let's see what we can do

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Thank you!



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