

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S ISSUES

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Home page: <http://travel.state.gov>

January 21, 2010

Mr. Hristo "Chris" Petrov
3716 Marchfield Place
Ft. Wayne, IN 46804

Dear Mr. Petrov:

As you may know, the Office of Children's Issues has been in a period of reorganization and expansion for the past year in order to address the growing numbers of international parental child abductions that are reported to the Department of State. Our goal is to provide the best possible support to left-behind parents who are seeking the return of or access to their children who have been removed from their countries of habitual residence. We also seek to work with foreign governments to encourage accession to or compliance with the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, for which the Office of Children's Issues is the U.S. Central Authority.

While it is necessary for this office to be flexible when facing new challenges, we understand these changes are difficult for you. Our priority is to ensure that each change is carefully considered to better address your specific concerns and the broader challenges associated with international child abductions. We have listened closely to parents who have expressed their frustrations and concerns, not only about their cases, but also about their interactions with the Office of Children's Issues.

In an effort to provide more stability for parents and to develop better regional expertise, we have hired many new staff members who bring much talent, dedication, and commitment to our team of professionals working on international abduction matters. We are in the final stages of expansion and hope this most recent realignment of portfolios among our staff will provide you with the continuity of service and support that you deserve.

Thank you for your patience throughout this process. Your new case officer who will have responsibilities for managing abduction cases from the United States to Bulgaria is Karen Alston. Your previous case officer, Karen Dyer, has briefed Ms. Alston fully on your circumstances and will continue to consult on your case, as needed. Please be assured that your child is important to the Office of Children's Issues and that the frequent changes over the past year have been

implemented in an effort to improve our ability to provide the best possible assistance to you during this very stressful time.

You may reach Karen Alston by email at AlstonKN2@state.gov . Because the volume of work our office continues to manage, communication by email is preferable; however, if you prefer to speak by phone, please call 202-663-1802 so an appointment for a return call can be made on your behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stefanie Bates Eye". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S' and a decorative flourish at the end.

Stefanie Bates Eye

Division Chief - Abductions Unit - Europe and Africa