

THE HAGUE, October 10, 2007

To Whom It May Concern

RE: WorldReach and the iChild project.

The Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction is a multilateral treaty, which seeks to protect children from the harmful effects of abduction and retention across international boundaries by providing a procedure to bring about their prompt return. Since it came into force more than 25 years ago, the 1980 Child Abduction Convention has become one of the most successful international treaties drawn up by the Hague Conference, with currently 80 States Parties representing all continents and many different legal traditions and cultures including 102 Central Authorities charged with the daily operation of the Convention in those States.

WorldReach modified its case management software and created iChild to modernize child abduction/access case management and reporting processes. WorldReach was able to expertly meet all of the unique requirements associated with these complex international cases. Available in English, French and Spanish, this tool is designed to store and keep track of all essential information concerning child abduction and access cases. It is the hope of the Permanent Bureau that the use of the iChild software on a day-to-day basis as a case management tool will help to improve both collection of data and standards of case management to lead the way towards paperless child abduction case management. The system will help to improve communication between Central Authorities; it will lead to greater consistency and efficiency in practice in the different States and consequently add to the continued success of the effects of this Convention.

Additionally, the maintenance of accurate statistics is an essential element in the monitoring process of this international convention. The Permanent Bureau recognized the need to utilize technology to aid in this important process. The statistical module of iChild will assist with INCASTAT, the electronic statistical database launched by the Permanent Bureau October 1<sup>st</sup> 2007. The necessary statistics are critical to the monitoring process and iChild will generate these statistics, and many others, as a natural by-product without any additional preparation or work on behalf of States Parties.

I have no hesitation in providing a strong recommendation to any government or international agency who is considering a large-scale software modernization project. WorldReach has shown they are well-versed in working in projects that span across several international agencies and government departments.



William Duncan  
Deputy Secretary General



Philippe Lortie  
First Secretary