



# Child Abduction Act 1984

## 1984 CHAPTER 37

### PART I

#### OFFENCES UNDER LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES

#### **2 Offence of abduction of child by other persons**

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, a person not falling within section 1(2)(a) or (b) above commits an offence if, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, he takes or detains a child under the age of sixteen—
  - (a) so as to remove him from the lawful control of any person having lawful control of the child ; or
  - (b) so as to keep him out of the lawful control of any person entitled to lawful control of the child.
- (2) In proceedings against any person for an offence under this section, it shall be a defence for that person to show that at the time of the alleged offence—
  - (a) he believed that the child had attained the age of sixteen ; or
  - (b) in the case of an illegitimate child, he had reasonable grounds for believing himself to be the child's father.