

We will help you,

- ✓ If your parents/relatives are pressuring you to get married.
- ✓ If you've already had to marry against your will.
- ✓ If you are afraid to travel abroad and having to stay there.
- ✓ If you are afraid of being engaged or married abroad against your will.
- ✓ If you are already abroad and are prevented from coming back.

**NEVER GIVE IN
TO A FORCED
MARRIAGE!**

Informal declaration:

I (Name) _____

born on _____

am afraid of being held in (country) _____

If I don't return till (date) _____ and cannot be reached, I ask the authorities to look for me and if necessary try to get me back.

Briefly describe your current situation and explain why you are concerned:

Contact numbers

ORIENT EXPRESS

Telephone: +43 1 728 97 25
Mon, Wed, Thu 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Tue 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

E-Mail: Koordinationsstelle@orientexpress-wien.com
www.orientexpress-wien.com
www.gegen-zwangsheirat.at

Office of the Child and Youth Advocate
www.kija.at

Available around the clock:

Women's helpline: +43 800 222 555
Ministry of Foreign Affairs: +43 1 90 115 4411
Rat auf Draht: +43 1 147

The consulting services at Orient Express are anonymous, free of charge and can be offered online. Information about the anonymous online consultation can be found on the homepage. After the consultation YOU decide what you want to do – we support you in your decision!

Nationwide coordination center against abduction and forced marriage

In charge of the content:

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With the support of



**ABDUCTED.
MARRIED.
LOST.**



ENGLISCH



ORIENTEXPRESS
INFORMATION FOR
THOSE SEEKING HELP

What does “abduction” mean?

The term „abduction“ is used when someone is voluntarily or involuntarily taken abroad by parents or relatives and prevented from returning to Austria. Often parents want to force their child to live according to their own ideas/principles. Sometimes a marriage in the parents’ country of origin is planned against the will of the person concerned.

What does “forced marriage” mean?

A forced marriage takes place when a person is coerced or forced to marry. In most cases, family members choose a future spouse against the will of the person concerned. Forced marriage is a major violation of human rights. In Austria this form of violence is punishable and you can defend yourself against it.

You have the right to choose the person you want to marry and also decide if you want to marry at all!

Attention minors:

If you are a minor, your parents may determine some areas of your life, e.g. where you live, but only as long as the „welfare of the child“ is not endangered, i.e. as long as you do not suffer any physical or psychological damage!

Your parents, for example, do NOT have the right to take you to a country to get engaged/ married there, no matter how old you are!

If you are unsure whether your parents are allowed to do something or not, ask the Children’s and Youth Ombudsman. You don’t have to give your name there if you don’t want to.

What can you do yourself if you fear being abducted?

- ✓ If you can prevent it, don’t leave Austria and talk to a trusted person about your fears!
- ✓ Contact institutions, because they can help you. Don’t remain silent!
- ✓ Talk about your problem and draw attention to yourself!
- ✓ Contact us personally or via the anonymous online consultation on the homepage!
- ✓ Get a secret mobile phone or SIM card with enough credit!

Do you have to leave against your will and are already at the airport?

- ✓ The police are responsible for security at the airport. Try to contact them and make yourself noticed!
- ✓ At the latest at passport control at the airport or at the border, you can tell the officials that you are not leaving voluntarily and would like to stay in Austria. No one can force you to leave!
- ✓ If you could not ask for help at passport control, put several coins in your Pocket to attract attention at security. Ask the security for help!

REMEMBER! Once you are abroad, it is very difficult to bring you back. Even with the help of the embassies it is sometimes impossible. There is a risk that you will not be able to return to Austria!

If you still decide to go abroad:

- ✓ Tell a confidant about your fear of not being able to return. Ask the person to notify the Police/Orient Express if you are not back by the scheduled date.
- ✓ Leave the following documents/Information with your confidant if possible:
 - a copy of your passport
 - other important document (e.g. registration form, e-card, certificates)
 - your travel dates and the date of your scheduled return
 - all addresses abroad where you could be located
 - an informal explanation with a short description of your concerns (see sample in this folder)
- ✓ If you notice that you can’t go back, try to contact the listed contact points (see contact numbers).
- ✓ If you have the possibility, give the most important information:
 - Your name, date of birth, location and a brief explanation of what happened.
- ✓ Memorize an emergency number (see contact numbers).