



Initial Kidnap Advice

Warren Risk, Crisis, Intelligence Consulting

Unfortunately in many regions, often regions we previously thought of as safe, kidnappings, extortion and related crimes are dramatically increasing.

When an incident like this occurs the perpetrators, whether criminal or politically motivated, invade your life with an unexpected chaos of unimaginable consequences.

They prey on your human emotions, control you with threats and demands and instantly turn your whole life upside down.

For everyone involved the trauma can have a significant everlasting psychological affect, and if handled incorrectly can quickly end in tragedy.

In many countries the authorities are not adequately trained, and do not always have the resources to manage such cases. Also corruption and inside-involvement in the kidnap industry is common in many regions.

International Governments are often bound by procedure, foreign policy and many other political and legal nuances when assisting with kidnappings, or providing advice on international incidents and or their regional risks. Many have a Foreign Policy not to negotiate with such perpetrators, leaving the Police and other Agencies limited with what they can actually achieve.

An effective strategy to preventing risks or managing such horrific incidents cannot accommodate such constraints. When peoples lives are at risk clients require discreet, diligent, strategically creative support to ensure effective risk management, safe resolution and safe repatriation.

Initial kidnap advice - family, friends, employer

- **You often know or suspect a kidnapping before the perpetrators make contact**
- **If so seek advice and be prepared**
- **It's not just those travelling that need risk advice and training**
- **Family members and employees likely to be contacted in a kidnap case also need briefing and or training**
- **Better planning, ensures better outcomes**





The initial contact by perpetrators

- **Initial contact is usually by phone, but email and social media messaging is increasing**
- **Monitor all phones, email, messages, etc and check spam filters and spam boxes**
- **Be as prepared as you can be, seek advice in advance if you suspect victim is abducted**
- **Record phone call where possible or write down everything you recall**
- **Ascertain accurate information**
- **Be calm and compliant as best you can**

Despite the significant risks and trauma, if such incidents are managed with care, diligence and an understanding of the psychology and security aspects of safe repatriation, then successful safe resolution is very common when managed with the right expertise.

Our Kidnap & Ransom Response Consultants can advise you on the likely kidnap type and perpetrators, and help you with strategies to negotiate correctly and increase the chances of a safe resolution. Our psychologists can provide on-going support, and our Intelligence analysts and operatives work on supporting you with information critical in resolving the situation successfully.

Initial Advice Check-List

It is likely the first contact will be by phone, but occasional these days it's an email or via social media even. Hopefully if your loved one or staff member knew they were travelling somewhere at risk they took advice or training, including briefing you.

If so you may already assume they have been abducted due to the media or an in-country colleague, so prepare for the phone call and check all emails and social media messages, including spam folders.

Often kidnap victims are asked who is the best person to call, but they usually go through their phones too. If the victim has been trained by us their phone should be mostly sterile with your number one of just a few crucial ones required.

Initial kidnap advice - family, friends, employer

- Ascertain accurate information and be certain of the type of crime
- Comply as best you can on any initial phone call in a calm manner
- Be polite and helpful, but try to promise nothing, especially things you cannot deliver
- Listen very carefully and ask them to repeat things or spell words you don't understand like their name
- Record the conversation where possible and or write down key points
- Listen to background noises
- Ignore intimidation, threats or sounds to scare you, it's how they control
- Nothing they are saying is likely true or accurate
- Try not to give out personal information
- Play down access to funds - Time is a critical aspect, push for time
- Limit who else they talk to or contact, one contact point/person is best
- All other friends, family, etc that they could contact instead, should redirect any contact from them to one place
- Try to push for further contact to be by email (say authorities here listen to phones sometimes) or we have phone problems
- Try to control communications when and how the next contact/communication will be (email me in 24hrs on this encrypted confidential email). It's useful to have one set up ready just in case
- Don't send or pay any money without expert advice
- Keep the matter private until expert advice is sourced

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Initial kidnap advice check list

- Promise nothing
- Listen carefully, background noise too
- Ignore intimidation and threats
- Nothing they are saying is likely accurate
- Try to control further contact by email
- Don't pay money without advice
- Keep the matter private until expert advice





- Plan for the days and weeks ahead
- Contact us in strict confidence for further advice
- There may need to be some careful deliberation with employer, other family member, insurance, etc as to whether you manage with the authorities or privately.
- Tell as few people as possible until you have specialist advice
- Talk to us, we are here to help anytime

Initial kidnap advice

- With planning and expert support safe repatriation chances are high
- Using the authorities or managing the crisis privately depends on many factors
- International law ensures the victim has a right to life over any other nuances such as political matters
- Often you only get the one opportunity to do all the right things
- The victim is relying on you!





Warren Risk, Crisis, Intelligence Consultants

Keeping you, your family, your staff safe in a complex world of risk



Contact us today for friendly confidential advice and support

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The Kidnapping Risks

In the big scheme of things kidnap risks feel low or inappropriate for many people, mostly as the likelihood of an incident for most people in safe regions is low. However, the concept of effective risk management includes analysis of the likelihood v the consequences.

Trust us, the consequences of a kidnapping are usually at best horrific for the victim, family, and friends and can often be tragic. Take that consequence and add an increased risk region, unprepared victim, family/employer and the risks are far higher than most anticipate.

The risks are very real for people travelling in many regions, even what some would call benign or holiday destinations. Country travel advisories rarely share full details as they are diplomatically created to share advice without offending often trade partners, neighbours, alliances or aggravating further potential adversaries.

If in doubt please reach out for some advice. Prevention is far better than the cure with these heinous incidents

Never pay money or give out information without expert advice first.

Our friendly professionals are here to help.



Warren Risk, Crisis, Intelligence Consultants

Keeping you, your family, your staff safe in a complex world of risk



Contact us today for friendly confidential advice and support

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About this report and disclaimers

Our reports and advice notes are developed normally when the risks changed quite significantly, either in specific regions or generally, or annually after our Kidnap Response and Intelligence Directorate complete an analysis of known incidents, trends and events.

We use open source data, private confidential insurance underwriter response reports, and our own confidential client support and crisis response information, along with information from our Intelligence Directorate to endeavour to make our reports accurate and our advice useful.

However, we cannot unequivocally ensure all data, information and incidents have been harvested and used to develop such reports and as such the reports accuracy, or if the report is appropriate to any individual, organisation, agency or body, their travel, operations and risks. These are generic reports with generic advice that should not be relied upon in any way without further professional analysis and assessments.

For specific advice and support please contact us

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