
The Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters is one of the conventions drawn up by the Hague Conference on Private International Law with the aim of reducing the practical and the substantive difficulties involved in transnational litigation. This Convention provides a simple and standard mechanism for serving documents abroad so that parties to an action will have actual and timely notice of proceedings, and so that adequate service can easily be proved. It came into force in 1969 and 29 States, including Israel, have now ratified the Convention.

The Handbook was designed to be a practical, rather than a scientific, guide to the operation of the Convention among the States which are party to it. This edition revises and expands on the first edition, published in 1983, and is based on information provided by the Contracting States and by the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference. It brings together in one useful looseleaf volume a number of important sources which explain the framework and the operation of the Convention.

First and foremost, the volume includes the text of the Convention, an updated list of the parties to it, and a list of optional declarations or reservations to the Convention. It also lists details concerning information that should accompany requests for service of documents abroad and a bibliography on the Convention. As background to the Convention, parts of the Explanatory Report which accompanied the initial proposal are brought (originally published in the 1964 Proceedings of the Hague Conference), as well as a summary of discussions held in 1977 by a Special Commission of Experts from all Parties to the Convention, (originally published in the 1980 Proceedings of the Hague Conference). Discussions of the relation between this Convention and the Hague Convention on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters of 1970 (the report of these discussions was published in International Legal Materials, 1989) are also published here, as well as a
selection of case law under the Convention from some of the Party States.

The Handbook further provides detailed information concerning the way in which each Contracting State deals with requests for service of documents coming from abroad, and the way in which it forwards local documents for service in other Contracting States. This discussion also deals with service through consular or diplomatic channels, through the post, and by means of process servers.

The Handbook greatly simplifies the technical aspects of service of documents abroad and is of immense practical value.

Celia Fassberg


The tenth volume of the Jewish Law Annual is devoted to the subject of parent-child relationships. Ten articles concerning the aforementioned topic appear in this volume, nine of them written by Israeli scholars. Although most of the essays originally appeared in Hebrew and were translated for this volume, no acknowledgment of this fact appears in the book. Not only is it proper to credit the original source in which the articles appeared, but the reader may be puzzled by the fact that at least some of the articles are not completely up-to-date. Footnotes stating where, and perhaps more importantly, when the articles appeared, would have been in order.

All in all the volume is cohesive, basically faithful to its general subject, and contains some fine scholarly works. For the reader who is not fluent in Hebrew, and therefore cannot read the articles in their original form, this volume is of special importance. Even Hebrew readers will find it helpful to find such a collection of articles on the important topic of parent-child relationships under one cover.

Various aspects of the parent-child relationship are discussed in this volume. One article is concerned with Biblical Law (J. Fleishman), and two articles deal solely with the Talmudic period (A.M. Rabello and E. Westreich). Three of the essays (S. Nahmias, E. Shochetman and P. Shifman) refer to Jewish Law not only in its traditional setting, but discuss its application in the State of Israel.