S P M I
Cantonal Central Authority
in Geneva

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Service de protection des mineurs (SPMI)

• The SPMI is the Cantonal Central Authority in Geneva.

• The SPMI is also the Child protective service in Geneva.

• The SPMI is an administration (part of the executive branch).

• The court that takes judicial measures is the Tribunal de protection de l'adulte et de l'enfant (TPAE).
S P M I
as Child protective service

- The S P M I is composed of 200 employees.
- Half of them are social workers.
- The S P M I helps parents on a voluntary basis but also executes judicial mandates of the T P A E.
Demands sent abroad:

- We may ask for a social report.
- We may also ask the Central authority to consider the need to take protective measures.
- Sometimes, we simply ask for an attempt to locate the child or to receive basic information about him.
Demands received from abroad:

- It is usually a request for a social report.
- Being the Child protective service, we write the report ourselves.
- If needed, we ask the T P A E for judicial measures and execute them.
The translation of demands

- Usually, we **translate** the **demands** we send abroad and sometimes the important passages of the documents attached.

- Usually, we **do not translate** our **response** to a demand sent to us.

- We use **sworn translators** but we do not ask for the translation to be certified.
The transfer of measures

• Some measures known in the Swiss legal order do not exist in some other countries.

• It will then be difficult to have the measure transferred to those countries.

• We especially experience some difficulties in the case of measures designed to insure a good relationship between a child and the parent who does not have custody.
Other actors involved

- The cooperation with the Federal Central Authority gives us a comprehensive vision of the activity of the other Cantonal Central Authorities.

- The ISS provides valuable help in the field work abroad.

- When consulates or embassies get involved, it is important to determine in which capacity they are acting: in particular, are they representing the parents based on a written proxy or not.
Improving and developing

• We have had very good experiences so far in dealing with other Central Authorities.

• In order to develop and improve our practice, we have created a 1996 Convention task team in the S P M I.

• Such a conference is extremely useful in this respect.