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Father Claims Child Kidnapped By Mother And Taken To Middle East

The Search for Toddler Gabby Dahm May Lead to Abu Dhabi

By CLEOPATRA ANDREADIS



4 comments

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A Florida dad is hoping the State Department and the FBI can help retrieve his toddler daughter who he claims was kidnapped by his wife and taken to the Middle East, despite the fact that child doesn't have a passport.



Baby Gabby and Leslie and Chris (Handout)

"I'm not doing too good right now," Chris Dahm, 33, told ABC News. "I am stressed out and upset. I want my daughter back and know she is safe."

Dahm said his 19-month-old daughter Gabrielle disappeared last Wednesday after his ex-wife, Leslie Delbecq, failed to drop her off at his house for their scheduled visit.

Dahm and Delbecq went through a bitter divorce, which was finalized in June, and granted the parents joint custody of Gabrielle. Dahm says that a condition

under the custody agreement was that Gabrielle not be taken out of the country.

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But Dahm claims that by Thursday he had learned that Delbecq had purchased three one way tickets to Abu Dhabi, by way of Brussels where Delbecq has dual citizenship. The tickets were in the names of his ex-wife, her mother and Gabrielle, he claims.

"I've been working closely with authorities since Friday, and we are not sure how Gabby could have gotten out of the country without a passport," said Dahm.

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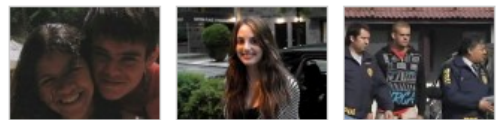
Dahm said that in 2005 his wife's family moved to Abu Dhabi because Delbecq's father got a job as a captain with Etihad Airways.

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Dahm's persistence to get answers on his daughter resulted in the involvement of the [FBI](#) and the [Department of State](#).

"I just met with the FBI for over two hours and have been in talks with the Department of State since Friday," said Dahm. "Everyone wants to handle this diplomatically and hopes that Leslie will bring

Gabby back on her own. That's the important thing. . . to get Gabby back."

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Reading this story, initially I felt sorry for the father. But the question is WHY did the mother take the daughter away from the father? My best friend is kind of in the same situation...feeling like just taking the kids and running from the father because he's verbally abusive and not a very good role model for their



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