

Glossary of legal terminology

Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 of 27 November 2003 concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility	
Matrimonial matters	divorce, legal separation or marriage annulment
Parental responsibility matters	the attribution, exercise, delegation, restriction or termination of parental responsibility
court	all the authorities in the Member States with jurisdiction in the matters falling within the scope of this Regulation
judge	the judge or an official having powers equivalent to those of a judge in the matters falling within the scope of the Regulation
Member State	all Member States with the exception of Denmark
judgment	a divorce, legal separation or marriage annulment, as well as a judgment relating to parental responsibility, pronounced by a court of a Member State, whatever the judgment may be called, including a decree, order or decision
Member State of origin	the Member State where the judgment to be enforced was issued
Member State of enforcement	the Member State where enforcement of the judgment is sought
parental responsibility	all rights and duties relating to the person or the property of a child which are given to a natural or legal person by judgment, by operation of law or by an agreement having legal effect. The term shall include rights of custody and rights of access
holder of parental responsibility	any person having parental responsibility over a child
rights of custody	rights and duties relating to the care of the person of a child, and in particular the right to determine the child's place of residence
rights of access	the right to take a child to a place other than his or her habitual residence for a limited period of time
wrongful removal or retention	a child's removal or retention where:

	<p>(a) it is in breach of rights of custody acquired by judgment or by operation of law or by an agreement having legal effect under the law of the Member State where the child was habitually resident immediately before the removal or retention; and</p> <p>(b) provided that, at the time of removal or retention, the rights of custody were actually exercised, either jointly or alone, or would have been so exercised but for the removal or retention. Custody shall be considered to be exercised jointly when, pursuant to a judgment or by operation of law, one holder of parental responsibility cannot decide on the child's place of residence without the consent of another holder of parental responsibility.</p>
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Council Regulation (EC) No 4/2009 of 18 December 2008 on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and cooperation in matters relating to maintenance obligations	
maintenance obligations	maintenance obligations arising from a family relationship, parentage, marriage or affinity
decision	a decision in matters relating to maintenance obligations given by a court of a Member State, whatever the decision may be called, including a decree, order, judgment or writ of execution, as well as a decision by an officer of the court determining the costs or expenses. For the purposes of Chapters VII and VIII, the term 'decision' shall also mean a decision in matters relating to maintenance obligations given in a third State
court settlement	a settlement in matters relating to maintenance obligations which has been approved by a court or concluded before a court in the course of proceedings
authentic instrument	<p>(a) a document in matters relating to maintenance obligations which has been formally drawn up or registered as an authentic instrument in the Member State of origin and the authenticity of which:</p> <p>(i) relates to the signature and the content of the instrument, and</p> <p>(ii) has been established by a public authority or other authority empowered for that purpose; or,</p> <p>(b) an arrangement relating to maintenance obligations concluded with administrative authorities of the Member State of origin or authenticated by them</p>
Member State of origin	the Member State in which, as the case may be, the decision has been given, the court settlement has been approved or concluded, or the authentic instrument has been established
Member State of enforcement	the Member State in which the enforcement of the decision, the court settlement or the authentic instrument is sought

requesting Member State	the Member State whose Central Authority transmits an application pursuant to Chapter VII
requested Member State	the Member State whose Central Authority receives an application pursuant to Chapter VII
2007 Hague Convention Contracting State	a State which is a contracting party to The Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and other Forms of Family Maintenance (hereinafter referred to as the 2007 Hague Convention) to the extent that the said Convention applies between the Community and that State
court of origin	the court which has given the decision to be enforced
creditor	any individual to whom maintenance is owed or is alleged to be owed
debtor	any individual who owes or who is alleged to owe maintenance
court	<p>Includes administrative authorities of the Member States with competence in matters relating to maintenance obligations provided that such authorities offer guarantees with regard to impartiality and the right of all parties to be heard and provided that their decisions under the law of the Member State where they are established:</p> <p>(i) may be made the subject of an appeal to or review by a judicial authority; and</p> <p>(ii) have a similar force and effect as a decision of a judicial authority on the same matter.</p> <p>These administrative authorities shall be listed in Annex X. That Annex shall be established and amended in accordance with the management procedure referred to in Article 73(2) at the request of the Member State in which the administrative authority concerned is established.</p>
domicile	For the purposes of Articles 3, 4 and 6, it replaces the concept of 'nationality' in those Member States which use this concept as a connecting factor in family matters. For the purposes of Article 6, parties which have their 'domicile' in different territorial units of the same Member State shall be deemed to have their common 'domicile' in that Member State.

Council Regulation (EU) No 1259/2010 of 20 December 2010 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of the law applicable to divorce and legal separation

scope	This Regulation shall apply, in situations involving a conflict of laws, to divorce and legal separation
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participating Member State'	a Member State which participates in enhanced cooperation on the law applicable to divorce and legal separation by virtue of Decision 2010/405/EU, or by virtue of a decision adopted in accordance with the second or third subparagraph of Article 331(1) TFEU
court	all the authorities in the participating Member States with jurisdiction in the matters falling within the scope of this Regulation

<p>Council Regulation (EU) 2016/1103 of 24 June 2016 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of matrimonial property regimes, and</p> <p>Council Regulation (EU) 2016/1104 of 24 June 2016 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of the property consequences of registered partnerships</p>	
matrimonial property regime	a set of rules concerning the property relationships between the spouses and in their relations with third parties, as a result of marriage or its dissolution.
matrimonial property agreement	any agreement between spouses or future spouses by which they organise their matrimonial property regime.
authentic instrument	<p>a document in a matter of a matrimonial property regime which has been formally drawn up or registered as an authentic instrument in a Member State and the authenticity of which</p> <p>(i) relates to the signature and the content of the authentic instrument; and</p> <p>(ii) has been established by a public authority or other authority empowered for that purpose by the Member State of origin.</p>
registered partnership	the regime governing the shared life of two people which is provided for in law, the registration of which is mandatory under that law and which fulfils the legal formalities required by that law for its creation.
property consequences of a registered partnership	the set of rules concerning the property relationships of the partners, between themselves and in their relations with third parties, as a result of the legal relationship created by the registration of the partnership or its dissolution.
partnership property agreement	any agreement between partners or future partners by which they organise the property consequences of their registered partnership.

Hague Convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction of 25 October 1980	
wrongful removal or retention	<p>where</p> <p>a) it is in breach of rights of custody attributed to a person, an institution or any other body, either jointly or alone, under the law of the State in which the child was habitually resident immediately before the removal or retention; and</p> <p>b) at the time of removal or retention those rights were actually exercised, either jointly or alone, or would have been so exercised but for the removal or retention.</p>
rights of custody	rights relating to the care of the person of the child and, in particular, the right to determine the child's place of residence
rights of access	the right to take a child for a limited period of time to a place other than the child's habitual residence

Hague Convention on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition, enforcement and co-operation in respect of parental responsibility and measures for the protection of children of 19 October 1996	
parental responsibility	parental authority, or any analogous relationship of authority determining the rights, powers and responsibilities of parents, guardians or other legal representatives in relation to the person or the property of the child
measures directed to the protection of the person or property of the child	<p>a) the attribution, exercise, termination or restriction of parental responsibility, as well as its delegation;</p> <p>b) rights of custody, including rights relating to the care of the person of the child and, in particular, the right to determine the child's place of residence, as well as rights of access including the right to take a child for a limited period of time to a place other than the child's habitual residence;</p> <p>c) guardianship, curatorship and analogous institutions;</p> <p>d) the designation and functions of any person or body having charge of the child's person or property, representing or assisting the child;</p> <p>e) the placement of the child in a foster family or in institutional care, or the provision of care by kafala or an analogous institution;</p> <p>f) the supervision by a public authority of the care of a child by any person having charge of the child;</p> <p>g) the administration, conservation or disposal of the child's property.</p>

wrongful removal or retention	<p>where:</p> <p>a) it is in breach of rights of custody attributed to a person, an institution or any other body, either jointly or alone, under the law of the State in which the child was habitually resident immediately before the removal or retention; and</p> <p>b) at the time of removal or retention those rights were actually exercised, either jointly or alone, or would have been so exercised but for the removal or retention.</p>
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Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance and Hague Protocol on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations of 23 November 2007	
creditor	an individual to whom maintenance is owed or is alleged to be owed
debtor	an individual who owes or who is alleged to owe maintenance
legal assistance	the assistance necessary to enable applicants to know and assert their rights and to ensure that applications are fully and effectively dealt with in the requested State. The means of providing such assistance may include as necessary legal advice, assistance in bringing a case before an authority, legal representation and exemption from costs of proceedings
agreement in writing	an agreement recorded in any medium, the information contained in which is accessible so as to be usable for subsequent reference
maintenance arrangement	an agreement in writing relating to the payment of maintenance which i) has been formally drawn up or registered as an authentic instrument by a competent authority; or ii) has been authenticated by, or concluded, registered or filed with a competent authority, and may be the subject of review and modification by a competent authority
vulnerable person	a person who, by reason of an impairment or insufficiency of his or her personal faculties, is not able to support him or herself