

# Foreign Territory Makes Arizona Child Custody Case Tricky

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Yazmin Maribel Bautista and Sadiq Jaffar Al-Saffar met six years ago in Arizona. They got pregnant and were married that same year and started a life together in Phoenix. That life together, including their daughter Fatima, was short-lived, and Al-Saffar left Fatima and her mother a mere two years after the marriage began. So began their child custody case.

Al-Saffar left his family in Arizona for Bahrain, where he is originally from and his family still resides. He allegedly left Bautista and their daughter in Phoenix because he found new work and new, younger love in his home country.

Surprisingly, his Arizona family followed Al-Saffar there out of desperation. Bautista had hopes of finding a career in Bahrain and giving her daughter the opportunity to have a consistent father in her life. Apparently, Al-Saffar also desires to be a part of Fatima's life and terrified Bautista when he [filed for custody](#) of their daughter upon their arrival to Bahrain.

This is a tricky and scary [child custody case](#) because Bautista is on foreign soil and dealing with foreign laws. As such, she has been unable to take Fatima and return to Arizona due to a Bahrain judge's orders that she either stay there with her daughter or go home--alone.

Like many mothers would do, Bautista has decided to stay with her daughter. That sacrifice has meant living in a country for nine months wherein her ex-husband's family and friends allegedly have made her feel like an outcast and where she has been forced to stay in homeless shelters.

According to sources, the U.S. embassy near Bahrain is aware of this child custody case and working to help protect Bautista's and her daughter's rights as U.S. citizens. Arizona Senator John McCain is also reported to be involved in this case, trying to get the mother and daughter home to Phoenix.

We will keep you posted as more details of this case become public. There are many more questions left to be addressed, including what custody agreements exist that were determined in the U.S. and how that custody status affects (or does not affect) the custody dispute in Bahrain.

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