



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Refugee Resettlement
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OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Division of Children's Services
Legal Resource Guide—Introduction

What You Need to Know About Your Rights and Responsibilities Under the Law:

A Legal Resource Guide for Children Entering the United States Unaccompanied

Introduction

You are currently in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, because you meet the definition of an Unaccompanied Child under the Homeland Security Act of 2002. This term refers to children and youth under the age of 18 who enter the United States without a parent or legal guardian (or the parent or legal guardian is otherwise unavailable) and without immigration status.

ORR is not a law enforcement agency or an immigration enforcement agency. ORR is responsible for the care of children like you, while trying to find a family member or trusted adult friend to care for you during your time in the United States. In most cases, children are released to a parent or other relative (called a "sponsor") who is already in the United States. The sponsor agrees to take care of the unaccompanied child and to bring him or her to an immigration hearing in a court where a judge will determine whether the unaccompanied child is allowed to stay in the United States or must return to the home country.

In the United States, most people who are detained based on immigration status are not automatically or immediately returned to their home country. Unaccompanied children and others without immigration status have the right to be represented by a lawyer and go to court to discuss their case.

Legal Resource Guide Documents

This package describes your rights while in the custody of ORR, your responsibilities to show up when your immigration status is being reviewed in a court of law, and how you and your sponsor can access legal services to help with your immigration case. The packet includes the following:

- **Notice of Rights and Provision of Services:** This document informs you of your rights as an unaccompanied child in ORR custody. It also explains what you can do if you feel that your rights have been violated or if you have been mistreated.
- **Know Your Rights Handout for UC:** This document is written in simple terms to help younger children understand the immigration process and what to expect. You will also be given a more formal Know Your Rights presentation later on if you remain in ORR custody. A legal service provider will give this presentation to explain your options and the process in more detail.
- **Legal Service Provider List for UC:** This document provides contact information for legal experts, including lawyers, who may be able to help you with your immigration case while you are in ORR custody and if you are released to a sponsor.
- **Notice to Juvenile Aliens in Federal Facilities Funded by DHS or HHS by Reason of Their Immigration Status:** This document is a formal notice describing your rights. You have the right under the law to apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJ), which is a visa that, if approved by Immigration, could permit you to remain in the United States.
- Other information supplied by your care provider, or locally ORR funded legal service provider, or other ORR approved legal service information.

How to Use the Legal Resource Guide

Keep this packet with your personal possessions. The information is important to help you during your stay while in ORR custody and if released to the care of a sponsor in the United States. If you lose this packet, ask your Case Manager for another copy.

Prior to being released to a sponsor, an assigned ORR Case Manager will make sure you have this guide with you and that your sponsor understands the legal obligations described in this packet.