



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

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[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr)

## **Repatriation Guide: Section 4 Repatriation of U.S. Citizens Accused of Crimes**

Section 4 includes:

- Eligibility
- Services
- Legal Considerations
- Financial Obligation
- Privacy

Repatriation is the return of a U.S. citizen from a foreign country. The U.S. Repatriation Program (Program) exists to provide temporary assistance to citizens and their dependents that have repatriated and are in need of assistance. The Program is administered by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the Administration for Children and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services. ORR partners with Department of State (DOS), state governments, and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance to participants of the Program.

A U.S. citizen that has been convicted of a crime and has served his or her sentence may be eligible for the Program. If there is a warrant for a U.S. citizen that wishes to access the Program, law enforcement may be notified when the repatriate returns to the United States.

### **Eligibility**

The Program can provide services to U.S. citizens and their dependents that lack resources and return to the United States. The eligibility requirements, found at 42 U.S.C. § 1313, are:

- 1) The person must be a U.S. citizen or a dependent of a U.S. citizen;
- 2) The person must be identified by the Department of State as returning to the United States from a foreign country because of destitution, illness, war, threat of war, invasion, or similar situation; and
- 3) The person must be without available resources for living expenses.

If all of these requirements are met and the Department of State has certified that the person is eligible for services, a U.S. citizen may receive assistance under the Program.

The Program also provides services to U.S. citizens that are determined to be mentally ill while abroad. Under 24 U.S.C. §321, a person is eligible for assistance under the Program if:

- 1) The person is a national of the United States and
- 2) The person has:

- a. A certificate stating that the person has been legally adjudicated insane in a named foreign country; or
- b. A certificate of an appropriate authority stating at the time of the certification, the person was in need of care and treatment in a mental hospital in a named foreign country.

If the person meets either of these requirements and is certified as eligible by the Department of State then he or she may receive services under the Program.

### **Services**

A repatriate that has been convicted of a crime and completed his or her punishment is eligible for all of the same services as any other participant in the Program. These services may include cash payments, medical care, shelter and counseling. All Program assistance is temporary and all services provided must be necessary for the health and welfare of the participant. If a repatriate qualifies for other types of benefits, obtains an income, or has access to other resources, then he or she may no longer be eligible for services under the Repatriation Program.

Services provided under the Program last up to 90 days. A participant may request a time extension for the temporary assistance. ORR may grant an extension if the participant's circumstances warrant it.

### **Legal Considerations**

DOS is responsible for notifying the appropriate law enforcement agency of the repatriate's return. If the non-governmental organization that contracts with ORR to provide services to repatriates or one of the local service providers discovers a repatriate has engaged in criminal activity or has an outstanding warrant, the agency must contact law enforcement.

### **Financial Obligation of Participants**

Participants of the Repatriation Program must reimburse the federal government for the cost of the services provided. The Payment Support Center for ORR notifies the participant of the amount to be repaid and how to make payments. The participant may request an extension of time to make payments or a waiver of payment.

### **Privacy of Participants**

Protecting the privacy of participants is a priority for the Repatriation Program. Participants are protected under federal and state privacy laws. Participants' personal and private information are disclosed to the extent necessary to carry out the functions of the program. For all information that is collected pursuant to the program, ORR takes steps to ensure that information is not shared or disclosed except as authorized under statute or regulation.