

OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

Unaccompanied Alien Children

Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC)

About UAC Program

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Unaccompanied Alien Children

On March 1, 2003, the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Section 462, transferred responsibilities for the care and placement of unaccompanied alien children from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

Since then, ORR has cared for more than 175,000 children, incorporating child welfare values as well as the principles and provisions established by the Flores Agreement in 1997, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its reauthorization acts, the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2005 and 2008.

Unaccompanied alien children apprehended by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) immigration officials are transferred to the care and custody of ORR. ORR promptly places an unaccompanied child in the least restrictive setting that is in the best interests of the child, taking into consideration danger to self, danger to the community, and risk of flight. ORR takes into consideration the unique nature of each child's situation and incorporates child welfare principles when making placement, clinical, case management, and release decisions that are in the best interest of the child.



[\(<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/children-entering-the-united-states-unaccompanied>\)](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/children-entering-the-united-states-unaccompanied)

The UAC Policy Guide (ORR Policy Guide: Alien Children Entering the United States Unaccompanied
[\(<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/children-entering-the-united-states-unaccompanied>\)](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/children-entering-the-united-states-unaccompanied))

Describes policies for the placement, timely release and care of unaccompanied alien children in ORR custody. It is a living document that may be updated as new policies are incorporated into the program or current policies are modified.



[\(<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/unaccompanied-childrens-services>\)](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/unaccompanied-childrens-services) **Key Documents for the Unaccompanied Alien Children Program**
[\(<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/unaccompanied-childrens-services>\)](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/unaccompanied-childrens-services)

READ MORE ABOUT UACS (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/uacs/about>)

UCS Resources

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All Programs

State of California - UC Legal Services Providers

Published: February 5, 2015

In-Country Refugee/Parole Processing for Minors in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala (Central American Minors – CAM)

Published: January 30, 2015

In-Country Refugee/Parole Program for Children in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras with Parents Lawfully Present in the United States – Eligibility for ORR Benefits and Services

Published: January 7, 2015

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