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

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

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## **Introduction**

The Central American Minors (CAM) program was launched in December 2014 “to provide a safe, legal and orderly alternative to the dangerous journey that some children are currently undertaking to the U.S.”<sup>1</sup> The program gives unmarried children under 21 who are nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala or Honduras a way to come to the U.S. legally. They must qualify as refugees. If they do not qualify as refugees, they may be considered for parole. The successful beneficiaries will be included in the allocation of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program which is 4,000 for FY 2015 although there is some flexibility in adjusting the number higher if needed. The Migration Policy Institute report, “*In-Country Refugee Processing in Central America, A Piece of the Puzzle*,” is a good source of information as are the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and U.S. Dept. of State websites. (*See appendices*)

## **Who Qualifies**

The children must be living in their home country when their qualifying parent (QP) in the U.S. applies for this benefit. A QP is one who is at least 18 years old and is present in the U.S. in one of the following categories:

1. Permanent Resident Status
2. Temporary Protected Status
3. Parolee (valid for a minimum of one year)
4. Deferred Action (valid for a minimum of one year)
5. Deferred Enforced Departure or
6. Withholding of Removal

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Dept. of State Fact Sheet, Nov. 14, 2014

A parent of the qualifying child may be included if:

1. He/she is part of the same household and economic unit as the qualifying child
2. He/she is legally married to the QP at the time the qualifying parent files the CAM-Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) *and*
3. He/she continues to be legally married to the QP at the time of admission or parole into the U.S.

### **Requirements**

DNA testing must be performed between the QP in the U.S. and his/her biological children for whom the parent files. The QP must pay the initial costs of the testing and will be reimbursed only if all tested and claimed biological relationships are confirmed by the results.

The child must prove that he meets the definition of refugee and is of special humanitarian concern to the U.S. Those found ineligible for refugee status will be considered for parole based on urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.

### **The Application Process**

There is no filing deadline nor is there an application fee. The QP in the U.S. files Form DS-7699/Affidavit of Relationship for Minors Who Are Nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The form must be completed with the assistance of a designated resettlement agency.

Once the DS-7699 is filed the beneficiary will be assisted through the International Organization for Migration (IOM) which manages the U.S. Resettlement Support Center (RSC) in Latin America. They will pre-screen the children to prepare them for their refugee interview with the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS). Applicants must also have security clearance.

Successful beneficiaries will be granted refugee status. Parolees must obtain and pay for medical clearance and book their travel through an approved USCIS process and pay for the flight to the U.S.

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