

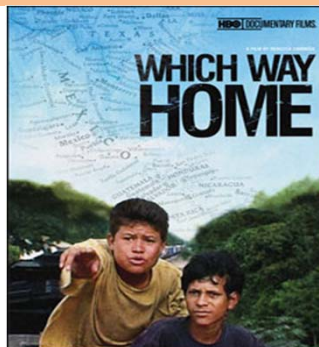


An Introduction to Representing Unaccompanied Children in Immigration Matters

Presented by:
Catholic Charities

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Who is an Unaccompanied Child?



A child who has **no lawful immigration status**, is **under 18 years of age**, and has **no parent** or legal guardian in the U.S. **available to provide care and physical custody**.

Children in Desperate Need

Some children are fleeing human rights abuses such as child marriages or recruitment as child soldiers, or life as street children.

Some children have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by their families.

Many children are victims of human trafficking.

Over 8,000 children arrive in the U.S. each year – alone – seeking protection, freedom and safety.

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Unaccompanied Children in the US

Unaccompanied children come from all over the world; about 92 % of those apprehended come from Latin America.

Children may migrate to the United States:

- on their own or in groups;
- on foot, by plane or boat, hitchhiking;
- through smuggling or as victims of trafficking.

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What Happens When They Are Apprehended?

- Children are taken into federal custody and housed by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in shelters, foster care, or secure facilities.
 - 600-700 kids are admitted into ORR custody per month
 - ORR may release children to adult “sponsors” also called “custodians”
- A Notice to Appear (NTA) is issued. This is the charging instrument that places the child in removal proceedings before an Immigration Court

DUCS Program

- DUCS children are generally in removal proceedings
- DUCS children may qualify for immigration legal relief such as
 - Asylum – SIJS - U and T Visas
- DUCS children become eligible for URM program upon obtaining legal status

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Title search: An Introduction to Representing Unaccompanied Children in Immigration Matters

Also available as part of the eCourse

[Family-Sponsored Immigration; Navigating the Complexities of Marriage Cases; plus Immigration Issues Involving Minors](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
35th Annual Immigration and Nationality Law session

"What about the Children? Immigration Issues Involving Minors"