

# Resources for Central American Minors and Their Families

*This resource is intended to provide information to those individuals who came to the U.S. through the Central American Minors Program and their families. We understand that many of these youth and families are facing the possibility of returning to their countries of origin, losing their current legal status, and/or having to seek alternative status in the U.S. We hope that the resources below will provide a starting point as families consider their next steps*

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## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY IN THE U.S.

### Know Your Rights

It is important to understand your rights when interacting with immigration officers. For instance:

- If an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer comes to your home, *you may refuse to open the door until the officer presents a warrant* with your actual name and address on it and a signature from a judge. You can ask the officer to slide the warrant under the door.
- *You have the right to remain silent* and do not have to answer the officer's questions.
- *You can speak to your legal counsel* and refuse to sign any documents until you have spoken with your attorney.
- See our short English and Spanish Know Your Rights videos at <http://bit.ly/JF1knowyourrights>. You can also access more detailed Know Your Rights materials on the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) website: <http://bit.ly/CLINICknowyourrights>.

### Know Your Options

If you or a family member has (1) Temporary Protected Status (TPS) through a country designation that the Administration is attempting to terminate, or (2) Central American Minor (CAM) parolee status, connect with an accredited and/or licensed immigration legal services provider to learn more about current updates.

- The Department of Justice website: <http://bit.ly/DOJlegal>
- The American Immigration Lawyers Association website: <http://www.aialawyer.com>
- Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) website: <http://cliniclegal.org/directory>

### Making Plans for Your Family

In the event that a family member could be detained or deported, ensure that family members who are remaining in the U.S. are prepared for the separation. Below are some key considerations to include in your family plan.

- **Create a list of emergency contacts** for your family.
- **If possible, establish a Power of Attorney** to appoint someone to handle important decisions for the departing family member, including important decisions regarding children. Talk to a pro bono attorney or your local legal aid office for guidance.
- **Ensure that a trusted family member has access to important family documents**, such as Social Security cards, birth certificates, immigration documents, lists of medications, regular bills, etc. Consider whether the person appointed power of attorney should have access to such important documents as well.
- **Establish a care plan for children** to identify an appropriate and trusted alternative caregiver in the event of separation. If possible, the caretaker should be identified in the power of attorney. Update the children's emergency contact and release forms with their schools, daycare centers, camps, and afterschool programs.
- Know that **children have the right to attend public school** regardless of their immigration status. <http://bit.ly/CLINIC-school>

*In need of other forms of support? Inquire with local social service agencies to learn about available services. You may also check with your local Catholic Charities office: <https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/find-help/>.*

# PLANNING YOUR RETURN TO YOUR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

If you are returning to your country of origin – whether due to deportation or on a voluntary basis - contact your Embassy or nearest Consulate to inquire about services available to you, such as reception centers, to help you with your return. You can also contact your country’s consulate located closest to your home in the United States. Check CLINIC’s Emergency Planning Directory by looking under the state where you are currently residing: <http://bit.ly/CLINICplanning>. The below resources provide contact information for available embassies, consulates, and other resources by country:

## El Salvador

- **El Salvador Consular Services**, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Humanitarian and Human Rights Department, provides repatriation assistance for vulnerable individuals returning to El Salvador, including those who are ill, victims of human trafficking, and minors. When you call your Embassy or Consulate, ask about the program: *Repatriación de Salvadoreños en Condiciones Vulnerables*.
- **El Salvador is Your Home (El Salvador es Tu Casa)**: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also offers information and support to help you get back on your feet, including referrals for employment readiness programs and psycho-social assistance: <http://bit.ly/ESTucasa>.
- **Municipal Workstations for Returned Migrant Care**, available at the San Salvador Airport, also can help to refer you to a wide range of services. Look for: *Ventanillas de Atención a Personas Retornadas*.
- **Salvadoran Embassy in Washington D.C.:** (202) 595-7500, [www.elsalvador.org](http://www.elsalvador.org)
- **U.S. Embassy in El Salvador** (For families with U.S. citizen children): (503) 2501-2999, <https://sv.usembassy.gov/>

## Honduras

- **General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants** (Dirección General de Protección al Hondureño Migrante) is part of the Honduran Ministry of Foreign Affairs and may be able to help with reception services.
- Go to **Servicios de Protección** for contact information and to inquire about the Center for Returning Migrant Care (Centro de Atención al Migrante Retornado) and Municipal Units for Returnee Care (Unidades Municipales de Atención al Migrante Retornado): <http://bit.ly/Hnproteccion>.
- **Honduran Embassy in Washington D.C.:** (202) 966-7702, (202) 966-2604, [www.hondurasemb.org](http://www.hondurasemb.org)
- **U.S. Embassy in Honduras** (For families with U.S. citizen children): (504) 2236-9320, <https://hn.usembassy.gov/>

## Guatemala

- Inquire with your **Embassy or Consulate** for possible reception services (orientation, phone calls, food) offered by the Foreign Ministry (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores) at the Guatemala Airport and in Tucumán.
- **Guatemalan Embassy in Washington D.C.:** (202) 745-4953, [www.guatemalaembassyusa.org](http://www.guatemalaembassyusa.org)
- **U.S. Consulate in Guatemala** (For families with U.S. citizen children): (502) 2326-4000, <https://gt.usembassy.gov/>

## Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Create an account at: <https://step.state.gov/step/>