

In-Country Refugee/Parole Processing for Minors in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala

Central American Minors – CAM

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Discussion for Today

- ❖ Overview of Central American Minors Program
 - Purpose of the Program
 - Eligibility for the Program
 - Processing
 - Benefits and Services in the US
 - Resources

Who is Here?

- ❖ Immigrants – those who plan to reside in the US permanently
 - Family reunification, Labor certification, Refugee and Asylee
- ❖ Non-immigrants – temporary residents in the United States. Examples include, and are not limited to Business People, Clergy, Diplomats, Students, Tourists
- ❖ Other – Trafficking survivors; Undocumented –born outside the United States and reside in the United States without formal documentation

Immigrant or Refugee?

IMMIGRANT – Choice

- Time to prepare for move to receiving country
- Relatives, economy, future
- Can return to home country and visit

REFUGEE - No choice

- Fleeing persecution
- No time to prepare for flight
- Limited choice about country of resettlement
- Cannot return home unless conditions change in home country

Who is a refugee?

- ❖ Crossed an international border or located outside the US
- ❖ Has a well-founded fear of persecution based on one of the five protected grounds:
 - Race
 - Religion
 - Nationality
 - Political opinion
 - Membership in a particular social group
- ❖ For entry into U.S., each refugee has passed extensive security and vetting processes

Purpose of CAM

Program began accepting applications on December 1, 2014.

This family reunification program aims to deter children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras from undertaking a risky journey in an attempt to be reunited with a parent residing in the U.S. This program provides a legal means of family reunification for qualified individuals.

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Eligibility of U.S.-based Parent

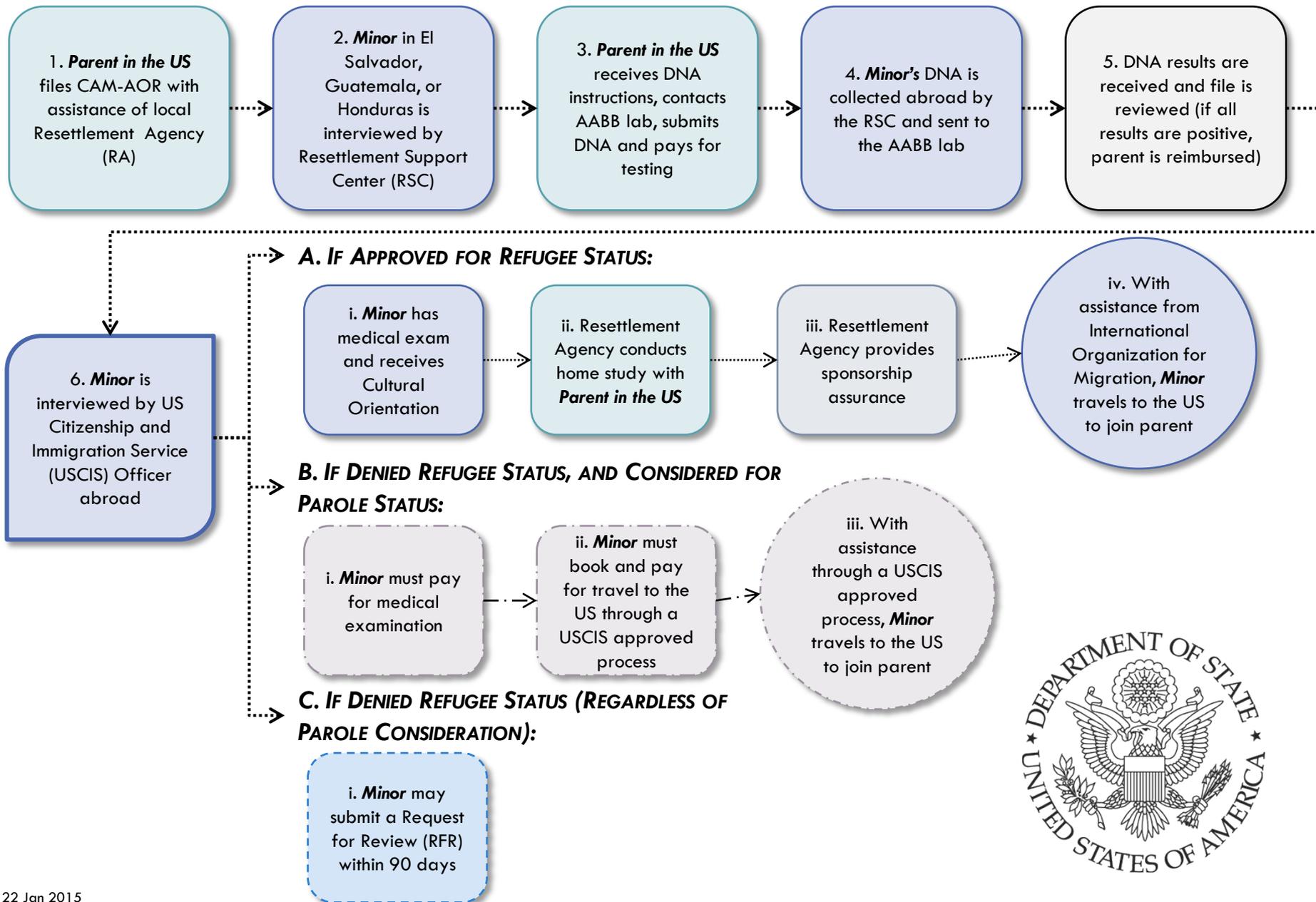
- ❖ At least 18 years old

- ❖ Lawfully present in the United States in one of the following categories:
 - Permanent Resident Status, or
 - Temporary Protected Status, or
 - Parolee, or
 - Deferred Action, or
 - Deferred Enforced Departure, or
 - Withholding of Removal

Eligibility for Minors

- ❖ **A child of the qualifying parent** as defined in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) – biological child, step child, or legally adopted child; AND
- ❖ **Unmarried and under the age of 21; AND**
- ❖ **A national of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras; AND**
- ❖ **Residing in his or her country of nationality.**

U.S. Refugee Admissions Program Central American Minors Flowchart



Differences Between Refugee and Parolee

REFUGEE

- ❖ Receive travel loan
- ❖ Receive resettlement assistance
- ❖ Authorized to work
- ❖ Children attend school
- ❖ Adjustment to permanent residency after 1 year

PAROLEE

- ❖ Must pay for own travel
- ❖ No resettlement assistance
- ❖ Authorized to work
- ❖ Children attend school
- ❖ No permanent immigration status or pathway to permanent status
- ❖ Source: DOS/PRM

Differences Between Refugee and Parolee (2)

REFUGEE

- ❖ Can include unmarried children as derivatives
- ❖ Once in the U.S., can petition for unmarried children under 21 to join them
- ❖ Eligible to apply for citizenship after 5 years

PAROLEE

- ❖ Parole status cannot be conferred to a family member
- ❖ Parolee can not apply for any family members to join them in the U.S.
- ❖ Must apply for re-parole or leave U.S. prior to parole expiration
- ❖ Source: DOS/PRM

Resettlement Agency

For refugee minors under 18

- ❖ Suitability Determination
- ❖ 24 hour home visit
- ❖ 30 day home visit
- ❖ Additional visits and services with 90 day report

Resettlement in the U.S. Reception and Placement

- ❖ Airport arrival
- ❖ Housing, furnishings, utilities
- ❖ Food and clothing
- ❖ Intake and Resettlement Plan
- ❖ Home visits
- ❖ Case management
- ❖ Cultural orientation to life in the US, home, and community
- ❖ Interpretation and translation
- ❖ Health screening

Reception and Placement (2)

- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Applications for Social Security Card and Public Assistance
- ❖ Employment services
- ❖ Assistance in accessing English Language classes
- ❖ Application for Selective Service registration
- ❖ Enrollment of children in school
- ❖ Pocket money
- ❖ Basic safety training
- ❖ Travel Loan reminder

Program to Date

Through Federal Fiscal Year 2016 – National Data

- ❖ Applications to date = 10,192.
- ❖ Applications approved to date = 1,025.
- ❖ Denial rate is less than 1 percent of CAM referrals.
- ❖ Percentage of refugees and parolees
Refugee: 44 percent; Parolee: 56 percent

Questions

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Resources

- ❖ Refugee Processing Center – CAM Program
www.wrapsnet.org
- ❖ US Citizenship and Immigration Services
<https://www.uscis.gov/CAM>
- ❖ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops,
Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services
(BRYCS) – The Central American Minors (CAM)
Program –
http://www.brycs.org/cam_program.cfm