
Immigration Enforcement Against Children and Families

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Immigration Enforcement against Children & Families

- Protecting family integrity during enforcement
- Risks for children, youth, and young adults with DACA and SIJS
- Chaos in children's immigration courts

Protecting Family Integrity

Immigration Enforcement

- Children detained, designated “unaccompanied,” sent to HHS-ORR
- Parents & children detained, sent to “family” detention
- Parents and caregivers detained, sent to ICE, quickly removed

Rights of Detained Parents

- [Detained Parents Directive](#)
- Reality: parents and other caregivers frequently removed without any opportunity to make care arrangements or participate in family court
- [Unimaginable becomes reality](#)

Protecting Family Integrity

- **Avoid system involvement**
 - Support for informal kinship care; CA AB 495 (Family Preparedness Plan Act)
- **Protect system-involved families**
 - Case workers, judges ensure immigration status, detention, repatriation don't disrupt fair proceeding
 - Training and support for appointed counsel for parents
 - Young Center [Technical Assistance Program](#): request case consultation
- **Funding for immigration counsel, habeas counsel**
- **Expanding safe spaces**
 - Hospitals, other community spaces; CA AB 49 (Save Haven Schools Act)

Risks for Youth with DACA, SIJS

DACA

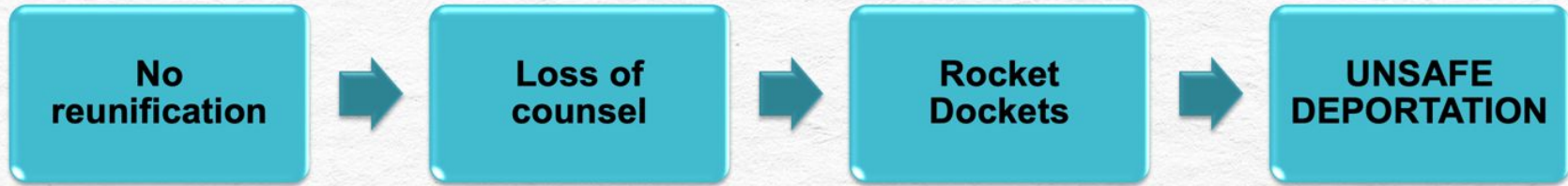
- Individuals who arrived as very young children, meet strict requirements
- Renewal delays disrupting ability to work and safety from detention
- Detention despite holding DACA
- As always, no protection for parents

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

- Determination that return to home country not in best interests
- Youth waiting 5+ years for LPR (green card) status – no fault of their own
- Work authorization—lost and regained (via litigation)
- No real protection from removal

Chaos in Children's Immigration Court

for unaccompanied, immigrant children in HHS-ORR Custody



Resources

State-specific opportunities: All Children Belong Campaign launching this June 2026 (visit www.theyoungcenter.org; www.clasp.org)

Updates on SIJS: <https://www.sijsbacklog.com>

Updates on DACA: <https://www.nilc.org/work/daca/>. Support DACA with [Home is Here](#) campaign.

Children sent to ORR custody: refer to [Young Center](#) for appointment of independent child Advocate.