



The Migration and Child Welfare National Network (MCWNN) is a [FREE membership](#) coalition targeted for individuals and agencies focused on the intersection of immigration and child welfare.

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#### **Information on Deferred Action:**

[Understanding the Criminal Bars to the Deferred Action Policy for DREAM Act-Eligible Individual](#) (YouTube Video by Angie Junck, JD, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, July 17, 2012, 15 minutes).

Written fact sheet to accompany the video - <http://www.ilrc.org/news-events/understanding-the-criminal-bars-to-the-deferred-action-policy> - and basic summary of deferred action <http://www.ilrc.org/news-events/deferred-action-summary>.

[Deferred Action for DREAM'ers](#) (CLINIC Website). On July 19, 2012, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano testified before Congress about Deferred Action for Dreamers. Her testimony provided a few new pieces of information about the program that was announced on June 15, 2012. This CLINIC website provides updates and links to DHS website information.

[Students Warned About Deferred Action Scams](#) (Rio Grande Guardian, July 5, 2012). La Unión del Pueblo Entero is hearing horror stories about unscrupulous immigration attorneys and notary publics telling immigrant students they must pay \$4,000 to move ahead with deferred action. 'People are coming to our orientation meetings and asking how much we charge to help process their case because they have been quoted \$3,000 and \$4,000 elsewhere,' said Martha Sanchez, a community organizer for LUPE in Alton. 'That is just terrible because people are being scammed. No one knows how much it will cost. The government has not said. The President said he will issue guidance within 60 days so we will not know anything until August.'

[Immigration Law Help](#) (A Project of Immigration Advocates Network). Interactive website helping low income immigrant families access legal help.

#### **News and Opinions**

[Immigration and Keeping Families Intact](#) (Los Angeles Times Editorial, July 31, 2012). About 5,000 children in more than 20 states were put in foster care after their parents were detained or deported by immigration authorities. That's unacceptable.

[New Americans Represent Team USA at the London Olympics](#) (Immigration Impacts, July 27, 2012).

Approximately 38 of the athletes on Team USA are naturalized U.S. citizens. As Lopez Lomong, an immigrant from Sudan and the 2008 flag bearer said, "Americans come from all over the world." Lomong, running in the men's 5000m, was born in southern Sudan and kidnapped by rebels when he was six years old. He managed to escape and spent 10 years in a refugee camp in Kenya before moving to New York.

[Delay on Violence Against Women Act](#) (New York Times Editorial, July 24, 2012). With Congress just days away from its August break, House Republicans have to decide which is more important: protecting victims of domestic violence or advancing the harsh antigay and anti-immigrant sentiments of some on their party's far right. At the moment, harshness is winning. At issue is reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, the landmark 1994 law central to the nation's efforts against domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

[Beefed up border patrol devastated northern community](#) (Equal Voice for Families, July 20, 2012). Throughout the community of Forks, Washington, 200 miles from the main border-crossing into Canada and 1,300 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border, it has turned into an unlikely battleground between the U.S. Border Patrol and families who have lived here for decades.

[US-born kids of migrants lose rights in Mexico](#) (Associated Press, July 18, 2012). Because of the byzantine rules of Mexican and U.S. bureaucracies, tens of thousands of those children without Mexican citizenship now find themselves without access to basic services in Mexico - unable to officially register in school or sign up for health care at public hospitals and clinics that give free check-ups and medicines because of clarification needed to make their US records valid in Mexico.

[Children Bearing Brunt of Deportation](#) (Latino Fox News, July 20, 2012). The increase of deportations is traumatizing children, according to a new study. In the past year, [400,000 people were deported from the United States](#), leaving immigrant and US-born children emotionally reeling from the separation of their families, the study found. "A lot of the U.S. children [interviewed] have undocumented parents, but a ton of them didn't," said Dr. Joanna Dreby, a sociologist at the SUNY University at Albany. "There are more mixed status families now than there have ever have before."

[Judge gives Missouri couple custody of illegal immigrant child](#) (St Louis News, July 19, 2012). A Greene County juvenile court ruled Wednesday in favor of a Missouri couple seeking to adopt the child of a Guatemalan woman who had been arrested and detained for working in the country illegally. The decision culminates a lengthy international custody dispute over the child that put American immigration policies under scrutiny and drew outrage from a Guatemalan diplomat and others fighting for immigrant rights.

[Immigrant Mom Loses Effort to Regain Son Given to US parents](#) (ABC News, July 18, 2012). In a controversial case that involved the rights of illegal immigrants and their young children, a Guatemalan mother lost her effort today to get back the five-year old son who was taken away from her after her arrest on immigration charges and put up for adoption in Missouri despite her objections.

[Crossing the Line Part 2](#) (PBS, Scheduled Airing - July 20, 2012). In the rush to stem the tide of undocumented immigrants, has Border Patrol committed widespread abuse on American soil? A former Border Patrol agent blows the whistle on unacceptable conditions in detention centers, including massive over-crowding and detainees who claim they were deprived of food and water. This groundbreaking report has been produced with assistance from the [the Nation Institute](#) and the [Investigative News Network](#).

[Opponents of Arizona Law Seek to Block Enforcement of Laws Most Contentious Part](#) (Associated Press/Washington Post, July 17, 2012). The National Immigrant Law Center is one of the groups pushing the challenge in court, along with American Civil Liberties Union, Mexican American Legal Defense and

Educational Fund, Asian American Justice Center, National Day Labor Organizing Network, and others. The groups are asking U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton to block enforcement of the requirement that would require police to check the immigration status of people they stop for other reasons.

[Planning our Shared Future: Investing in Children, Youth and Families](#) (Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families, July 2012). This white paper examines immigrant-specific demographic trends that have particular relevance to children, youth, and family funders and offers funders recommendations for responding effectively to the needs of this population in their local communities.

[Postville, Iowa is up for grabs](#) (New York Times Magazine, July 15, 2012). Article describes what happens to Postville, Iowa after the 2008 immigration raid.

[Immigrants Need Not Fear Police](#) (Chicago Sun-Times, July 12, 2012). Undocumented immigrants who witness crimes or are victims themselves would have nothing to fear from Chicago Police— and no excuse to avoid cooperating with them — under a mayoral plan unveiled Tuesday that united former political adversaries. Mayor Rahm Emanuel and U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Chicago) joined forces to unveil the so-called “Welcome City” ordinance, which would prohibit police from detaining undocumented immigrants unless they are wanted on a criminal warrant or have been convicted of a serious crime.

[US: ‘Deportation pyramid’ illustrates effects of deportation on children](#) (Southern California Public Radio , July 17, 2012). The Journal of Marriage and Family has a new article on the effects of deportation on kids. The author presents what’s titled a “deportation pyramid,” something she describes as similar to an “injury pyramid” used by public health professionals, to illustrate how children experience deportation and the threat of it.

[Deporting the tamale lady – Will the US send Juana Reyes back to Mexico – for selling \\$1 snacks outside of a south Sacramento Walmart?](#) (Newsreview, July 26, 2012). Undocumented single mother with two US citizen is arrested for trespassing on Wal-Mart and has her children sent to foster care.

[Mother who sold tamales outside Walmart on Florin Road faces deportation](#) (The Sacramento Bee, July 19, 2012). Undocumented single mother with no criminal history arrested for selling tamales in front of Walmart and charged with trespassing charges. She spent 12 days in the Sacramento County jail until the trespass charge was dropped but her children were put in foster care during that time. The mother and her children maintain they received no warning that she would be arrested if she didn't leave. She also claimed the arresting officer refused to turn her children over to relatives who came to the scene.

[Trust Act passed too late for Sacramento mother](#) (ABC Sacramento Bureau, July 18, 2012).

[Sacramento Mother Fighting Deportation Becomes Face Of Trust Act](#) (CBS 13, July 18, 2012).

[Street Vendor Targeted For Deportation](#) (Fox 40, July 18, 2012).

[Tamale Lady Arrested At Wal-Mart Becomes Face of Immigration Legislation Campaign](#) (Capitol Public Radio, KXJZ90.9, July 18, 2012).

## **Advocacy and Legislation**

[Roybal-Allard Bill Would Reunite Families Shattered by Immigration Enforcement](#) (First Focus Press Release, July 13, 2012). Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) introduced yesterday the Help Separated Families Act, legislation to improve the likelihood that children taken into state custody following immigration enforcement actions against their parents can ultimately reunify with their parents.

[New federal bill aims to keep children of deportees with family](#) (Southern California Public Radio, July 16, 2012). A measure voted on last spring by the California Senate that could allow some immigrants in deportation to hold onto their children, avoiding the foster care system, has been joined at the federal level by a similar federal House bill.

[House Bill Would Keep Kids of Deported Parents With Families](#) (Colorlines, July 13, 2012). On Thursday, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34) introduced legislation to address the rising number of children in foster care as a result of immigration enforcement. The “Help Separated Families Act of 2012” intends to keep children of detained or deported parents united with their families.

[Bill would curb foster care entries linked to deportation immigration issue](#) (Chronicle of Social Change, July 13, 2012).

[Protect funding for refugee resettlement](#) (U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, July 2012). The House of Representatives is proposing to drastically cut funding for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) for fiscal year 2013. The proposed cuts will have an unprecedented negative impact on the thousands of refugees, asylees, and other vulnerable populations.

[The Next Ten Years in the Fight Against Human Trafficking](#) (Senate Foreign Relations Hearing, July 17, 2012). Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-MA) presided over a hearing to explore the major factors that enable the ongoing proliferation of trafficking, and probe solutions for some of the most difficult problems associated with trafficking. It also allowed the Committee to establish the existing facts, determine where the greatest problems lie, discuss available tools to address the major challenges, and work toward a roadmap for the next ten years.

[Congressional Hill Briefing – Child Welfare/ Trafficking Briefing](#) (YouTube, July 18, 2012). Hosted by the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth & The Victims’ Rights Caucus, this bipartisan Capitol Hill briefing focuses on strengthening the child welfare response to trafficking victims, many of whom had prior child welfare involvement.

[Child Trafficking Policy Resolution](#) (American Bar Association – Commission Policy Resolution, August 2011). Resolution passed by the ABA on child trafficking that calls for more training and tools to better identify all child victims of trafficking as such and to avoid arresting such victims.

[Dollars and Detainees: Opportunities for Sentencing Reform and Advocacy](#) (Advocate Training Conference Call, Aug 15, 3-4 EST). To register, please rsvp. Hosted by The Sentencing Project, Detention Watch Network and Grassroots Leadership, this training will focus on a recent report published by The Sentencing Project, [Dollars and Detainees: The Growth of For-Profit Detention](#), details how harsher immigration enforcement and legislation led to a 59 percent increase in the number of detainees being held by the federal government between 2002 and 2011. It specifically examines how Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) have increasingly relied on private companies to detain these individuals, as well as examining the complex network of facilities that house federal detainees, and the failings of private detention.

**National Task Force to End Violence Against Women** (<http://4vawa.org/>). It has been over two months, since the April passage of a Senate version of VAWA and the May passage of a different House version of VAWA and Congress has done NOTHING to finish the job and get VAWA signed into law. Congress has just a few days to get to work on VAWA before they leave for the entire month of August - and then only a few short days in session before the congressional session ends on October 1. For more information, check the National Task Force website for fact sheets, press coverage, support letters and updates.

### **Research and Resources**

[Immigration Offenders in the Federal Justice System](#) (Bureau of Justice Statistics, July 18, 2012). Presents data on criminal and civil immigration violations handled by the federal justice system over the last decade. The report found:

- Apprehensions for immigration violations peaked at 1.8 million in 2000 but dropped to 516,992 in 2010—the lowest level since 1972.
- The most common immigration offense charged in U.S. district court in 2010 was illegal reentry (81%), followed by alien smuggling (12%), misuse of visas (6%) and illegal entry (1%).
- Eighty-one percent of immigration defendants who were convicted in U. S. district court received a prison sentence in 2010. The median prison term imposed was 15 months.

[Insecure Communities, Devastated Families: New Data on Immigrant Detention and Deportation Practices in New York City](#) (Immigrant Defense Project/New York University School of Law Immigrant Rights Clinic/Families for Freedom, July 23, 2012). In the wake of growing deportation programs such as the recently-activated “Secure Communities” initiative, this new report sheds light on the precise ways in which current detention and deportation practices are wreaking havoc on New York City immigrants and their communities. The deportation system is devastating families by not only threatening to exile their loved ones, but also often forcing immigrants to fight their cases for years while locked up in far-away immigration jails.

### **Resources for Direct Service Providers**

[How the Child Welfare System Works](#) (Child Welfare Gateway Fact Sheet, July 2012 – in English/Spanish).

[Responding to Human Trafficking](#) (Child Welfare Gateway website links to trafficking information, July 2012).

[Guidance for Determining if an Adoption is Valid for INA Purposes](#) (USCIS Interim Memo for Comment, July 9, 2012).

[Behavioral Health: Strengthening the Parent/Youth Relationship](#) (Egal Shidad). This free online video is offered by Egal Shidad, a three year project to communicate information on health issues for the Somali community. (It is in Somali with English subtitles.) It explores ways to bridge the communication gap between parents and teens, to help parents raise their children in America in a way that will keep them healthy and safe and support their education. The Somali producer talks to a Somali-American police officer, a group of recent high school graduates, and a parent.

[Handouts from Public Counsel](#) (in English and Spanish). Produced by Public Counsel located in Los Angeles, California are handouts to help children and families including:

- [School Discipline](#) School discipline should both serve a purpose and remain consistent with the child's right to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). SPANISH - [Disciplina Escolar](#)
- [Special Education](#) This brochure covers issues relating to special education and related services, including students' and parents' rights and responsibilities – SPANISH - [Educacion Especial](#) Derechos y Responsabilidades de Estudiantes y Padres
- [Peace of Mind Program-Joint Guardianship of the Person](#) The Peace of Mind Program provides parents who live with a life-threatening illness with the Peace of Mind that their children will be cared for. – SPANISH - [Tranquilidad de Conciencia](#)
- [Immigration: What Teens Need to Know](#) – SPANISH - [Inmigracion lo que Jovenes Deberian saber](#)
- [Understanding the Juvenile Delinquency System](#) This pamphlet was written especially for young people in the juvenile delinquency system – SPANISH - [Entendiendo/ Conociendo-El sistema](#) Este folleto fue escrito para jovenes involucrados con el sistema de justicia juvenil
- [Sealing your Juvenile Records](#) This pamphlet explains what it means to seal juvenile records, who qualifies to have their juvenile records sealed, and how to go about doing it – SPANISH - [Sellando Tu Expediente Juvenil](#) Este folleto explica lo que quiere decir "Sellar el Expediente Juvenil," quien tiene derecho a sellar su expediente juvenil, y como hacerlo.

**DISCLAIMER:** The information in this e-news does not represent the opinion or endorsement of MCWNN. This information is intended to provide general discussion on the topic and should not be used as a substitute for professional advice which takes into consideration specific circumstances of the situation. Those seeking case consultation should seek the services of a competent professional. Much apologizes in advance for any typographical or grammatical errors. If you are interested in sharing information on FYI from MCWNN, please contact co-editors, [Yali Lincroft](#), MBA, First Focus Policy Consultant, and [Lara Bruce](#), MSW, Program Specialist, Butler Institute for Families/Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver.