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News & Opinions

[Domestic violence victims fear deportation – undocumented immigrants speaks out against county’s notification policy](#) (Glenwood Springs/CO, May 25, 2012). An undocumented immigrant who was detained by immigration authorities after being arrested in a domestic violence incident — in which she was the victim — is speaking out because she doesn’t want others to go through the same ordeal.

[Latino parents with autistic children face major hurdles](#) (New America Media, May 23, 2012). Understanding what a diagnosis of autism means is difficult no matter who you are, but if you happen to be Latino, only speak Spanish, are illiterate or have little formal education, or not Internet savvy, the difficulties are significantly greater.

[Mom of Deported Teen Runaway Files Federal Lawsuit](#) (Associated Press, May 23, 2012). The mother of a teenage Dallas runaway who immigration authorities shipped to South America after she provided a false name has filed a civil rights suit against top federal officials claiming her daughter was illegally detained and deported.

[Kids seen more often in immigration court](#) (Dallas Morning News, May 20, 2012). In a Dallas federal immigration courtroom, children as young as 12 are increasingly taking center stage. They are part of a troubling rise in unaccompanied minors charged with coming into Texas illegally — boys and girls in search of a childhood, fleeing violence or desperate to reunite with a mother or father. Children and teenagers filled the first row of brown wooden benches in Judge Dietrich Sims’ immigration court recently. Heads of the two smallest — 12-year-old Francisco Villanueva and 13-year-old Luis Quiroga — barely bobbed above the backs of their seats.

Law Professors to President Obama – You have the authority to help DREAM’ers (New York Times, May 31 2012). Student leaders presented to White House officials a letter signed by more than 90 immigration law professors who argued that the president had clear executive authority to halt deportations of illegal immigrants who might benefit from DREAM.

[Assault on Battered Immigrants: HR 4970 Undoes VAWA Protections and Risks Lives](#) (By Myriam Jaidi, Blog - Commentaries on Immigration Law, Policy and Trends, May 11, 2012). 'This will get people killed,' my colleague and I agreed while we reviewed the “Immigration Provisions” of HR 4970, the bill introduced in the House in April, ostensibly to “reauthorize” the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) originally promulgated in 1994 and reauthorized and strengthened since its original passing. The Immigration Provisions found in Title VIII of HR 4970, however, will effectively dismantle VAWA as we know it in the immigration context, place people in danger, set up a system that will likely violate the

United States' treaty obligations, and reverse decades of progress in the nation's understanding of domestic violence and the pernicious ways in which an abuser can exercise power and control in domestic relationships. [The Huffington Post](#) discovered one of the driving forces behind HR 4970 is the head of a mail order bride service. A federal jury awarded one of the brides her company matched with an abusive American husband \$434,000 after a trial. The verdict was affirmed upon appeal by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

[The Fake Violence Against Women Act](#) (The National, May 17, 2012). House Republicans want to legislate a hierarchy of victimhood.

[For undocumented women, farm work rife with harassment](#) (National Journal, May 17, 2012). Hundreds of thousands of women and girls working on the nation's farms and in packing houses face the threat of sexual violence and harassment, according to a [report](#) released on Wednesday by Human Rights Watch. Human Rights Watch recently interviewed 160 farmworkers, growers, law enforcement officials, attorneys, service providers, and other experts on the agricultural workplace in eight states. Nearly all of the 52 workers interviewed said they had experienced sexual harassment or violence or knew others who had.

[Youth without papers step out of shadows](#) (Helen O'Neill, Associated Press, May 19, 2012). She was tiny and trembling and looked so very vulnerable. Barely 15, having already experienced a lifetime of hardships since losing her mother at 5 and crossing the desert with her father, she clutched a microphone before a crowd in New York's Union Square. "My name is Diana," she said. "I am undocumented and unafraid." With those words last March, another young woman stepped "out of the shadows." It began several years ago, tentatively, almost furtively, with a few small rallies and a few provocative T-shirts. In the past two years it has grown into a full-fledged movement, emboldening thousands of young people, terrifying their parents, and unsettling authorities unsure of how to respond. From California to Georgia to New York, children of families who live here illegally are "coming out" - marching behind banners that say "undocumented and unafraid," staging sit-ins in federal offices, and getting arrested in the most defiant ways - in front of the Alabama Capitol, outside federal immigration courts and detention centers, in Maricopa County, Ariz., home of the sworn enemy of illegal immigrants, Sheriff Joe Arpaio. In "outing" their families as well as themselves, they know they risk being deported. But as states pass ever more stringent anti-illegal immigration laws - and critics denounce their parents as criminals - these young people say they have no choice.

[DREAMers Sue US Senate for Blocking DREAM Act with Filibuster](#) (Colorlines, May 15, 2012). Potential DREAM Act beneficiaries and the government watchdog group Common Cause have joined as plaintiffs to sue the U.S. Senate for blocking DREAM Act legislation with the filibuster rule. The complaint argues that the filibuster allows senators representing as little as 11% of the population to prevent votes in the Senate.

[Mark Cangemi, 9/11 investigator, adopts immigrant teen's cause](#) (Minnesota Public Radio, April 23, 2012). Article describes undocumented SIJS immigrant youth adopted by ICE agent.

Resources for Service Providers

[U Visa Updates](#) (Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Memphis, May 18-19, 2012). These notes contain lots of important practice questions, updates and filing tips for U visa cases.

[Visas for Victims of Criminal Activity](#) (Dept of State, May 2012). This page provides information on how to apply for a U nonimmigrant visa, the required documents and fees, visa ineligibility and more.

[Consular Processing for Overseas Derivative T & U Nonimmigrant Status Family Members](#) (USCIS). This Q&A fact sheet provides information on making the appointment and preparing for the interview for U nonimmigrants who need consular process.

[VSC Stakeholder Call](#) (May 9, 2012). These notes from the quarterly VSC Stakeholder call contain lots of important updates and filings tips for VAWA, U and T visa cases.

[AMBERT Alert Best Practice Guide](#) (Press Release, Justice Department, May 23, 2012). This guide details effective practice for law enforcement, broadcaster and child protection officials to activate an AMBER Alert (available in Spanish and English). The purpose of the guide to enhance the ability of law enforcement, broadcasters and child protection officials to safely recover missing and abducted children. The guide details effective practices for training law enforcement, activating and broadcasting an AMBER Alert, disseminating information to the public and approaching family members of an abducted child. Acting Administrator Hanes also announced the release of two publications translated into Spanish:

- [No estás solo: El camino del secuestro al empoderamiento](#) (You're Not Alone: The Journey From Abduction to Empowerment), presenting the stories of child abduction survivors and how their lives changed after their traumatic experiences; and
- [¿Y yo? Cómo sobrellevar el secuestro de un hermano o una hermana](#) (What About Me? Coping with the Abduction of a Brother or Sister), offering insight from siblings of abducted children.

Reports & Research

[Family Courts and Immigration Status](#) (by David B. Thornson and Judge Frank P. Sullivan, *Juvenile and Family Court Journal* 63, no. 1 (winter), 2012) National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 18 pages). Immigration issues can complicate the already difficult decisions that face family courts, and immigration law is a real and substantial element in the lives of many persons properly before family courts for protection and resolution of family issues. Yet there are not established parameters for evaluating the appropriateness and scope of the consideration of immigration issues in family courts, developing rationales for engaging or not in immigration issues, and providing a foundation for thoughtful consideration of the ways in which immigration law interacts with core family law functions.

[Falling Through the Cracks: How Gaps in ICE's Prosecutorial Discretion Policy Affects Immigrants Without Legal Representation](#) (by Joan Friedland, Immigrant Policy Center, May 2012). In 2011, nearly half of all immigrants in removal proceedings appeared without legal representation ("pro se"). While immigration attorneys can explain the effect of these policies to their clients, *pro se* immigrants may be unaware that new policies regarding prosecutorial discretion are even in effect. This paper lays out what immigration authorities can do to ensure that pro se immigrants understand what prosecutorial discretion is, how they can seek it, and what they should do after receiving (or not receiving) an offer of it.

[Refugee 101](#) (BRYCS website). Provides basic information and statistics to understand the refugee resettlement process.

[Whites Account for Under Half of Births in U.S.](#) (New York Times, May 17, 2012). Non-Hispanic white births are no longer a majority in the United States, a tipping point that has implications for politics, the economy and a nation's identity. [Graphic: Largest Generational Gaps in Minority Births](#)

[Minority Births are New Majority – In Demographic Watershed for US, Newborns among Non Hispanic White are Surpassed by Others](#) (Wall Street Journal, May 2012). Among the roughly four million children born in the U.S. between July 2010 and July 2011, 50.4% belonged to a racial or ethnic group that in previous generations would have classified them as minorities, up from 48.6% in the same period two years earlier. African-Americans are the largest minority among adults over 50. But for anyone younger—including the newborns forming America's first "majority minority" generation—Hispanics are the second-largest population group after whites of European descent.

Resources

[DREAM Resource Center](#) (Hosted by the Labor Center at the University of California Los Angeles). The DREAM Resource Center at UCLA was created in 2011 to develop educational and policy materials to help undocumented students access higher education, including a leadership development component and a communications strategy.

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, American Humane Association Child Welfare Specialist.