

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. Have you missed a recent e-news? They are now [available online!](#) Follow the MCWNN on [Twitter](#).

Court Case

[WA State Court of Appeal on Dependency Matter of MR](#) (Feb 6, 2012). After Carissa Paulos entered into an agreed order of dependency, the court entered an order placing her four-year-old daughter with the paternal grandparents. At the first dependency review hearing, the court removed M.R. from the care of her paternal grandparents based solely on the court's unfounded concerns about their immigration status. Because the decision to remove M.R. from the care of her paternal grandparents was based on untenable grounds and contrary to law, the court of appeal has reversed the order.

Resources

[Information for California State Prisoners with Immigration Holds](#) (Prison Law Office, Revised Feb 2012, 36 pages). This manual is designed for noncitizen prisoners in the custody of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The purpose of the manual is to give noncitizen CDCR prisoners an understanding of what will happen to them as the result of an immigration detainer (hold), help them decide whether to challenge removal (deportation), and help them prepare for the proceedings if they choose to challenge removal. For most noncitizen prisoners, the main questions will be whether they can be deported and whether they have any defenses to deportation (known as "relief from removal"). The answers will depend on each person's immigration status, other immigration history, the type of criminal convictions they have on their record, and family or social factors. Unfortunately, most CDCR prisoners will be deportable and will have few or no defenses to deportation.

News & Opinions

[Number of Deportation Cases Drop by Nearly a Third](#) (Los Angeles Times, Feb 2012). The number of deportation cases filed by federal immigration officials dropped by nearly a third in the first three months of the fiscal year, according to a report by the Syracuse University Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. The drop recorded in the last three months of 2011 may reflect the Obama administration's plan to focus its deportation efforts by weighing a variety of discretionary factors, including whether the person is a veteran, came to the U.S. as a child or is a college student, according to the report. But experts said it's too soon to say if deportations overall will decline. Some immigration attorneys said they have started to see a change in the types of cases the government pursues.

[Court Slows Deported Dad's Case as 20K sign Petition to Reunite with Kids](#) (Colorlines, Feb 22, 2012). A petition launched on Valentine's Day by Presente.org and Colorlines.com's publisher, Applied Research Center, surpassed the 20,000 signature mark on Tuesday afternoon. The petition calls on the Department of Social Services in Allegheny County, NC. to ensure that Felipe Montes, a single-father who was deported to Mexico, not be permanently separated but instead be reunified with his three sons in the United States or Mexico.

[Action Needed to Save Family From Permanent Separation - Three US Citizen Children to be Taken From Father Deported to Mexico](#) (Presente.org, Feb 15, 2012). An action launched on Valentine's Day 2012 by Presente.org and the Applied Research Center is rallying public support to save a family scheduled from torn apart by the Department of Social Services in Allegheny County, NC. Felipe's family is emblematic of thousands of families devastated by immigration enforcement and child welfare systems that collide and greatly increase the chance that children will never see their families again.

[Help Save the Montes Family](#) (The Nation, Feb 17, 2012). This heartbreaking video describes the outrageously unfair detention and deportation of an innocent man and the callous means by which immigration officials casually tear families apart.

[MSNBC's Up With Chris Hayes Features Shattered Families Story](#) (MSNBC, Feb 2012) – video where Colorlines.com Editorial Director Kai Wright joining the MSNBC's Saturday morning news panel. The show delved into Colorlines ongoing investigation into children stuck in foster care as their parents are deported or detained.

[ICE hands over 14,237 unaccompanied minors to Mexico in 2011 according to report by the National Migration Institute](#) (Hispanically Speaking News, Feb 13, 2012). The minors handed over to authorities in Mexico, 11,520, or nearly 81 percent, were Mexican and the other 2,717 were of various unspecified nationalities.

[Human Trafficking a Growing Global Scourge](#) (New America Media, Feb 2012). Human trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal business in the world, according to the State Department. It ranks only second to drug trafficking in profitability. The majority of those trafficked are young adults between ages 18 and 24 — but children also make up a large part of it. Almost all have experienced either sexual exploitation or violence, often both, during their time being enslaved.

[US Visas aid trafficking victims at their peril](#) (New America Media, Feb 2012). A special visa created 12 years ago to save thousands of victims of human trafficking and curb international human trafficking has been vastly underutilized. Attorneys for rescued victims seeking residency protection say law enforcement agencies are often unwilling or slow to “certify” victims’ claims of having been brought to the U.S. to work by force, fraud or coercion.

[Abuse cases put Los Angeles schools under fire](#) (New York Times, Nov 17, 2012). Miramonte Elementary School, a working class school in South Los Angeles where dozens of students were abused over several years. Many of the students are children of Latino immigrants and some worry that parents were reluctant to report the allegations to the police because of their legal status.

[Rwandan woman to stand trial in NH on immigration charges](#) (Associated Press, Feb 21, 2012). A federal court in NH is about to become a laboratory for analyzing the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and whether a Manchester immigrant played a role in it. Prosecutors says 41-year-old Beatrice Munyenyezi of Rwanda lied on applications to enter the US in 1995 and obtained citizenship in 2003. They say she ordered the rape and murders of Tutsis during the three-month genocide of about 800,000 people. She denied any involvement. Jury selection in the citizenship fraud trial begins tomorrow. Most of the witness will travel from Rwanda and speak no English.

Education

[Using Radio to Teach English to Immigrants](#) (Governing Magazine, Feb 9, 2012). The non-profit [MATT Foundation](#) combats the challenges students face by offering its Maestro en Casa (teacher at home) program, an audio program (aired over traditional radio, on [Internet radio](#), or on CD) that allows students to study English in their own homes. The lessons cover vital areas of knowledge like health care, finance, workplace conversation, education and citizenship. Maestro en Casa first launched in San Antonio in 2009 and has since expanded to Denver, Los Angeles, and recently Austin, Texas. The Austin Independent School District (AISD) started the program (paid for by MATT) as a way to increase parent

involvement, reports the [Austin American-Statesman](#). Alex Sánchez, AISD's director of public relations and multicultural outreach, told the local newspaper that the district reached its goal of signing up 1,000 parents within two days. Once participants complete the program and pass an exam, the school district and MATT will recognize the graduates in a June ceremony.

International

[Lawyers – British government has paid \\$1.6M for holding child refugees in detention](#) (Washington Post, Feb 18, 2012). LONDON — The British government has paid out just over 1 million pounds (roughly \$1.6 million) in compensation to dozens of child asylum seekers wrongly held in detention centers before 2005, lawyers said Saturday. London law firm Bhatt Murphy said in a statement that the government made the payments to 40 former teenage detainees between 2009 and 2010 after the government acknowledged it had been wrong to keep them in custody. Bhatt Murphy said that nonspecialist immigration officials had incorrectly classified the teens as adults “purely on the basis of their appearance,” forcing them to prove that they were underage. The government’s age-verification procedures have since been reformed.

[£2m paid out over child asylum seekers illegally detained as adults](#) (The UK Guardian, Feb 12, 2012). Legal case involved 40 youngsters who were locked up in adult units under Home Office policy deemed to be unlawful.

Conferences & Fellowships

[ON THEIR OWN: Protecting the Rights of Immigrant Children](#) (National Center for Refugees & Immigrants, April 24-26, 2012, Washington DC). The conference brings together advocates from both private and nonprofit organizations, government representatives, and policy makers across the country to examine current challenges, best practices, and policies that impact the lives of unaccompanied immigrant children. In addition, it provides an excellent opportunity for advocates to learn more about legal issues facing immigrant children, build useful skills, and brainstorm new ideas on ways to further the protection of unaccompanied immigrant children in the United States. Please visit www.NationalChildrensCenter.org to register!

[Minority Adoption Leadership Development Institute Accepting Applications](#) (Deadline April 15, 2012). The National Resource Center for Adoption (NRCA) recently announced the opening of its 2012-2013 Minority Adoption Leadership Development Institute (MALDI). The Institute was established in 2005 to enhance the leadership skills of potential and emerging leaders of color selected from State, County, Tribal and/or State Regional child welfare systems. The NRCA will be accepting applications February 15 through April 15, 2012.

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.