



FYI from the MCWNN (May 2, 2012)

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](#).

BRAVO to Emily Butera for her published letter to the New York Times

Letter to the Editor - When Parents Are Deported (by Emily Butera, New York Times, May 01, 2012). To the Editor: 'Deporting Parents Hurts Kids,' by Hirokazu Yoshikawa and Carola Suarez-Orozco (Op-Ed, April 21), highlights the trauma of children whose parents are deported. Every day, thousands of detained and deported immigrant parents live in fear of permanent separation from their children. This is especially true when children enter the child welfare system because their parents are in immigration custody. I have talked to countless detained parents with children in child welfare care, and most tell me that they would accept deportation if they knew they could preserve their relationship with their children. But immigration and child welfare laws and practices do not facilitate this, prompting many parents to return to the United States after deportation in an effort to reunite with their children. Congress and the administration must enact policies that uphold immigrant parents' parental rights. Such policies would be both humane and effective, while honoring the family values that this country holds in high regard.

EMILY BUTERA Senior Program Officer, Detention and Asylum, Women's Refugee Commission

Resources

[Family Finding and Engagement Beyond the Bench – Working Across International Borders](#) (by Felicity Sackville Northcott and Wendy Jeffries, *Juvenile and Family Court Journal* 63, No 1, Winter, 2012, National Council of Family Court and Juvenile Court Judges). Article describes permanency options and locating non-custodial parent located across international borders, encouraging all stakeholders in the permanency planning process to adopt a broader, more global, view of the range of permanent placements and family connections for all children in foster care.

[New ABA Video Helps Immigrant Detainees Understand their Rights](#) (American Bar Association, April 19, 2012). This educational video is targeted to the more than 400,000 men and women held in immigration detention facilities across the country each year, of whom more than 80% do not have lawyers. The ABA Commission on Immigration collaborated on the project with the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, Detention Watch Network, and the National Immigrant Justice Center. The Commission is working with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to distribute the video to the 250 detention centers across the country.

[The All in One Guide to Defeating Ice Hold Requests](#) (Published by Washington Defender Association, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guide, National Immigration Law Center and Immigrant Defense Project, May 2012, 42 pages). This toolkit is designed to help communities prevent deportations by keeping local police separate from immigration enforcement.

[Prosecutorial Discretion Toolkit](#) (By National Immigrant Legal Resource Center, ACLU, CHIRLA, May 2012, available in English/Spanish). On June 17, 2011, ICE released two memos intended to guide ICE agents, attorneys, and officers regarding the exercise of prosecutorial discretion in immigration enforcement decisions. The results of the nationwide case review have been very disappointing and reveal that the agency has not yet implemented these policies in a consistent and systematic manner. Data released by ICE on April 19, 2012, show that ICE has reviewed 219,554 pending cases, with only 16,544, or 7.5 percent of the cases, identified as amenable for prosecutorial discretion. Only 2,722, or 0.01 percent, of the cases of people in deportation proceedings have actually been administratively closed. This toolkit is developed to help people who do not have attorney representation apply for prosecutorial discretion.

News & Opinions

[California Policies Move to Keep Immigrant Families Unified During Deportation](#) (Colorlines, April 24, 2012). A California state legislative committee voted unanimously last week in support of a bill that will strengthen the rights of parents arrested by local police and those held for additional time because of their immigration status. If passed, AB 2015 would require that officers inform parents of their right to make up to three phone calls after arrest. While existing law provides for parents to make three calls, it does not require local cops to inform those booked of that right. Additionally, the law allows parents to make additional calls from jail at the time of release, transfer or because they are “held for immigration reasons.” **NOTE: The legislation described in this article was developed by Yali Lincroft, MCWNN co-editor for First Focus Campaign for Children. For more information, please email yalil@firstfocus.net**

[Some question use of temporary shelter for children in country illegally](#) (New York Times, April 29, 2012). This month, federal officials began housing 200 undocumented immigrant children at Lackland Air Force Base here, turning a vacant dormitory that was once the living quarters of basic training recruits into an emergency shelter for young illegal immigrants. It is the first time that this subset of immigrants — a particularly vulnerable population, some of whom are as young as 8 or 10 and have been physically or sexually abused — has been housed on a military base.

[Inside Ethiopia's Adoption Boom](#) (Wall Street Journal Online, April 28, 2012). Ethiopia has become one of the busiest adoption destinations in the world, thanks in part to loose controls that make it one of the fastest places to adopt a child. Nearly one 1 in 5 children adopted by Americans hailed from Ethiopia the past two years, second only to China. Many youngsters, like Melesech, are thriving in loving homes. Still, the U.S. State Department has cautioned that Ethiopia's lax oversight, mixed with poverty and the perils of cross-cultural misunderstanding, leaves room for abuse.

[Poll: Arizona voters support DREAM Act – 73% back measure allowing citizenship](#) (AZCentral, April 26, 2012). The Merrill/Morrison Institute survey indicated that 73 percent of registered Arizona voters support the Dream Act -- 45 percent of them strongly.

[SF Youth of Color Seen Negatively as Local Services Shrink](#) (New America Media, April 2012). Killings, arrests and immigration crackdowns have hurt San Francisco's Latino and black youth just as the city has cut services to help them and prevent violence.

[Temporary Protective Status keeps Family Living in Limbo](#) (New America Media, April 2012).

[Performance management boosts international family finding](#) (Driving Social Impact, April 27, 2012). Blog describing the International Family Finding work that ISS-USA has done through programs like the Fostering Connections Grant.

[Senate Passage of Domestic Violence Bill Belies Lengthy Partisan Wrangling](#) (Congressional Quarterly Today Online News, April 26, 2012). The Senate passed a bill to reauthorize an expanded version of the Violence Against Women Act on Thursday, shifting attention to the House, where Republicans on Friday will unveil their version, which the White House is likely to oppose. The Senate's bipartisan vote of 68-31 masks weeks of partisan wrangling over the law, which typically has been easily renewed; it was first pressed in 1994 by then-Sen. Biden and unanimously supported when the Senate last reauthorized it, seven years ago. Senate Judiciary Chairman Leahy, D-Vt., who worked with Idaho Republican Crapo to write the chamber's broader bill said in an interview after the vote that the Senate's action would provide momentum for the House to clear the reauthorization.

[American Psychological Association Marks Mental Health Awareness Month with Focus on Immigrant and Child Mental Health Issues](#) (Press Release, American Psychological Association, April 23, 2012). Newswise — WASHINGTON -- The American Psychological Association will spotlight a range of issues including traumatized children and health care disparities among immigrants in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month in May. Activities include - Wednesday, May 9: Congressional Briefing Addressing the Mental Health of America's Immigrant Population, Cannon House Office Building, Room 234, 3-4:30 p.m.

[Editorial – Immigration Debate Can't Ignore the Kids](#) (Arizona Central, April 16, 2012). One of the biggest challenges in discussing illegal immigration is to remember the human dimension. It's important to think about the children — for their sake and for the sake of our nation's honor and decency.

[Net Mexican Immigration Sinks to Zero](#) (Wall Street Journal, April 24, 2012). Net migration from Mexico has plummeted to zero thanks to changing demographic and economic conditions on both sides of the border, a new study shows.

[States' Rights at Stake in Arizona Immigration Court Case](#) (New York Times, April 22, 2012). Many across the country will be watching closely when the Supreme Court hears arguments on Wednesday on the bitterly disputed immigration enforcement law that was passed two years ago in Arizona, inspiring the Georgia statute and similar ones in Alabama, Indiana, South Carolina and Utah.

[Biden to lead push for domestic violence law](#) (MSNBC, April 18, 2012). VP Biden will lead a Democratic push to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, the 1994 legislation that now faces opposition from some conservatives. Biden will be joined Wednesday by Attorney General Eric Holder, Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett, White House Advisor on Violence Against Women Lynn Rosenthal and Sharon Love, mother of Yeadley Love and founder of the One Love Foundation, to talk about the need to reauthorize the law. The [New York Times has reported](#) that the law would expand financing for and

broaden the reach of domestic violence programs. However, it said some Republicans say the measure unnecessarily expands immigration avenues by creating new definitions for immigrant victims to claim battery, and also dilutes the focus on domestic violence by expanding protections to new groups, like same-sex couples. The [Washington Post reported](#) that Biden will be joined by Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, a Democrat, whose cousin was killed by her estranged boyfriend in 2008.

[Deporting Parents Hurts Kids](#) (by Hirokazu Yoshikawa and Carola Suarez-Orozco, NY Times April 20, 2012). Two weeks ago, DHS released a report that showed from January to June 2011, ICE removed 46,486 undocumented parents who claimed to have at least one child who is an American citizen. In contrast, in the entire decade between 1998 and 2007, about 100,000 such parents were removed. The extraordinary acceleration in the dismantling of these families, part of the government's efforts to meet an annual quota of about 400,000 deportations, has had devastating results. Statistics about those who were deported in 2011 show that 45 percent were not apprehended for any criminal offense.

[Undocumented immigrants losing the fight to keep their US citizen children](#) (Ann Arbor News, April 17, 2012).

[Many deportees have US Born Children](#) (NBC Right Now, KNDO/KNDU Tri-Cities, Yakima Washington,) According to a new report released by Immigration Customs Enforcement to Congress, during the first six months of last year, of the people deported, 22% claimed their children are U.S. Born citizens. An additional 21,860 parents of U.S.-citizen children were ordered out of the country but may not have left, according to the same report. ICE statistics show that 74% of the 46,486 parents of U.S.-citizen children deported had been convicted of crimes. Another 13% had been previously removed from the country, and 4% were fugitives - immigrants who failed to comply with deportation orders.

[Nebraska votes to restore prenatal care for illegal immigrants](#) (Tucson Sentinel, April 2012). Nebraska lawmakers voted to restore prenatal Medicaid for illegal immigrants, but Gov. Dave Heineman promised to veto the bill, [Reuters](#) reported. The state legislature voted 31-15 today in favor of bill 599. In 2010, Nebraska eliminated the program to help expectant mothers, a decision that affected about 1,600 low-income women, Reuters said. Half of those women were illegal immigrants, while others didn't fully meet the criteria.

[Nebraska lawmakers finish session with votes to override prenatal care](#) (Associated Press, April 18, 2012) Nebraska lawmakers wrapped up their session after restoring prenatal care benefits for illegal immigrants, an issue that split the GOP-dominated Legislature and pitted a majority of senators against Republican Gov. Dave Heineman in a state that has become a national leader in the push to limit abortions. Lawmakers overrode the governor's veto of a bill that will extend coverage to the unborn children of illegal immigrants and low-income women. Supporters argue that the coverage will reduce infant deaths and avoid emergency births, long hospital stays and treatment for children who develop complications — all of which costs the state more than prenatal care. Opponents say it will reward unlawful behavior with taxpayer-funded benefits, and could attract more illegal immigrants to Nebraska.

[Escondido Police Under Fire - Inland CA Immigration Checkpoints in Camo](#) (KPBS News, Mar 12, 2012). On a spring morning in 2010, Leticia dropped two of her children at their Escondido school and continued on to run errands with her 4-year-old daughter. Before long, she was stopped at a police checkpoint. Ronquillo watched as Leticia was handcuffed and separated from her 4 year old, a U.S. citizen. Within hours, the 34-year-old mother of four was taken to an immigration holding facility,

processed, and deported to Tijuana. After living in Escondido for more than 10 years, Leticia was separated from her four children for the first time.

Reports

[Sex Trafficking of Children in the United States: Overview and Issues for Congress](#) (Congressional Research Service, June 21, 2011, 43 pages).

[International Family Law Desk Book](#) (by Ann Laquer Estin, Available at the American Bar Association website, Jan 2012, 300 pages). Designed to serve as a compact and useful resource and reference tool, the book includes extensive discussion of the international treaties that have come to form the basis for reciprocal relationships between the US and more than 85 other nations - while focusing on the law applied to transnational family issues in the United States.

[The Flow of Unaccompanied Children Through the Immigration System – A Resource Guide for Practitioners, Policymakers, and Researchers](#) (Vera Institute of Justice, March 2012, 38 pages).

[Achieving Justice for Victims of Rape and Advancing Women’ Rights: A Comparative Study of Legal Reform](#) (Madre, 2011, 52 pages). This report, produced to support the process of law reform in Haiti, should be equally definition of rape and where victims of unwanted sexual contact remain intimidated from reporting it by a sense of futility and fear of humiliation. This report, in text and references, supplies many concrete examples of laws and policies from a range of jurisdictions that implement women’s human rights, including models for statutes, protocols for victim services, and guides to police and prosecutorial procedures.

[Prosecutorial Discretion in Context: How Discretion is Exercised Throughout Our Immigration System](#) (by Hiroshi Motomura, Professor of Law/UCLA School of Law, Immigration Policy Center/American Immigration Council, April 11, 2012, 9 pages).

[State and Local Enforcement Related to Legislation, Litigation and State Measures related to Immigration Enforcement](#) (National Immigration Law Center, 2011). In 2011, 1,607 bills and resolutions were considered by various state legislatures in 2011, and 306 were enacted. The National Conference of State Legislatures reports that in 2012, five states introduced omnibus enforcement bills containing provisions such as requiring law enforcement to verify immigration status during a lawful stop, making it a state crime for failure to carry a federal immigration registration document, and creating penalties for transporting or harboring illegal immigrants.

[Government Report Calls For Doubling Nation's Public Health Spending](#) (The Hill, April 10, 2012). The US spends more on health care but lags behind the rest of the industrialized world in life expectancy and childhood mortality because the government "chronically" underfunds public health systems, the Institute of Medicine argues in a new report. The report calls for doubling federal spending on public health from \$11.6 billion to \$24 billion a year "as a starting point to meet the needs of public health departments."

[State Immigration-Related Legislation – Last Year’s Key Battles Set the Stage for 2012](#) (National Immigration Law Center, January 2012). Last year, state legislators introduced a record number of immigration-related measures, but all-told, states enacted fewer measures than many had predicted after the conservative political shift associated with the 2010 state elections. This wrap-up summarizes

last year's battle in four key areas: (1) laws inspired by Arizona's SB1070; (2) laws mandating E-Verify enrollment and use; (3) laws requiring applicants for public benefits verify their citizenship or immigration status; and (4) laws addressing immigrants' access to higher education.

International

[City Council looking to protect immigrant children](#) (Inside Toronto, April 2012).

[Indian child custody case brings culture clash and concerns in Norway](#) (Women News Network, April 24, 2012).

[Border agency halts x-ray programme for child asylum seekers](#) (The GuardianUK, April 27, 2012).

Events

[Defending Childhood – Briefing Binder for The Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence](#) (University of Miami, March 19-21, 2012, 73 pages). Biographies and testimonies from three day meeting of national task force, including section focus on immigrant and at-risk youth exposed to violence.

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.