



Family preparedness in the case of a deportation action

In light of the recent arrest and deportation actions against parents in Los Angeles and Southern California, CCSA has received multiple inquiries from charter school leaders and parents regarding how best to prepare for such a worst case scenario. Based on recent incidents it has become clear that ICE agents will exercise their legal authority to wait near a charter school campus to detain undocumented parents. The following are suggestions from Child Welfare Services, Child Protective Services, and Legal Aid offices in 58 California counties.

Child Welfare Services/Child Protective Services

CCSA recently contacted the Child Protective Services/Child Welfare Services offices in all 58 California counties to better understand the process in the event that a minor child should find themselves deprived of adult care, supervision or guardianship due to a federal law enforcement actions, such as detention by ICE agents or a pending deportation action. We have compiled a list of contact information for each of these offices:

http://www.ccsa.org/CCSA_CPSInformation.xlsx In most counties, law enforcement would initially take custody of the child upon the detention of the parents. The child would be placed in the care of the county's Child Protective Services or Child Welfare Services office, who would look for the next of kin. Frequently CPS/CWS will be in contact with the child's parents and the consulate of the parents' country of origin to determine whether or not the parents would like the child to be reunited with them in the parents' country of origin. If no care giver is identified within 48 hours or less the child would be placed into the foster care system.

Guardianship Plan

To avoid such confusion, it is recommended that parents identify who they designate as the appropriate and willing guardian for their child in the event of a deportation action. It is recommended this be notarized and dated, however a hand written declaration is often all that is necessary. It is important to note that this individual does not have to be a family member and can be a trusted friend. A notarized plan carries more weight than a handwritten note as it signifies that a parent has thoughtfully considered what they would like to have happen to their child. In addition, if parents wish to be reunited with their child in their country of origin, they should complete the dual citizenship application for their child in advance so that the application is ready to submit at the time of the parent's detention. It will be much more difficult for parents to access and complete the paperwork once in custody and separated from their child.

School Emergency Contact Information

Charter schools should take this opportunity to update their emergency contact information for all students. It is recommended that parents add additional pickup options to their emergency cards (family members, family friends, or neighbors) so that schools can release students to approved adults rather than to law enforcement and CPS/CWS in the event of a deportation action during school hours.

Student Information

Without frightening students, they should know who to contact in case of such an emergency. Carrying a list of trusted family friends, relatives, or neighbors with contact information is recommended.