



Child Protection Officer



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INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE MIGRACIÓN



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Index

Introduction	1
Child Protection Officer.	2
Full and Ongoing Training to the Child Protection Officers.	3
The Functions of the Child Protection Officers.	4
Ensuring the right to the information access and the family contact for unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents. NEXTEL-INM-UNICEF.	5
The rights of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.	6
National and international legislation that protects the rights of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.	7
New Immigration Law in Mexico	8
Institutional documents that have been published in the Official Journal of the Federation, to protect and safeguard the rights of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.	9
Procedure Care for Unaccompanied Mexican migrant Children and Adolescents.	10
Procedure Care for Unaccompanied Foreign Migrant Children and Adolescents.	11
Care Units for unaccompanied mexican and foreign migrant children and adolescents.	12
The Child Protection Officers in Latin America and the Caribbean.	13
A Child Protection Officer's wish	14

Introduction

An Inter-Agency Task force on Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents and Migrant Women was established in March of 2007 and raised the urgent concern of providing comprehensive protection for these highly vulnerable populations.

This Inter-Agency is integrated by: the National Institute of Migration (INM), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National System for Integral Family Development (SNDIF), the Special Prosecutor for Crimes of Violence against Women and Trafficking (FEVIMTRA), the Presidency, the Ministry of Health (SS), the National Population Register (RENAPO), the Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL), the Ministry of Education (SEP), the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES), the National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Juvenile Integration Centers (CIJ), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Mexican Commission for Aid to Refugees (COMAR).

In the framework of the Inter-Agency Task Force for unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and Women, Mexico created a Model for the Protection of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents rights, including the creation of a specialized corps of child protection officers.

Therefore, in close collaboration with the National System for Integral Family Development (SNDIF), the National Migration Institute (INM) has agreed to provide protection for Mexican and foreign migrant childhood during the process of repatriation and accommodation in Mexico through the child protection



A Child Protection Officer is

A federal immigration agent who has the task of protecting the migrant children and adolescents rights, specially those who travel unaccompanied and are under the protection of the INM, with strict adherence to the administrative law. It is also responsible for providing a specialized care.



The Institute has a staff of 368 Child Protection Officer's that wear the uniform of a federal immigration agent with a specific signature, and can be found in the 32 regional offices of the INM.

The Child Protection Officers are assigned taking into account, among other factors, gender and age of the unaccompanied child or adolescent.

Full and Ongoing Training for the Child Protection Officers

The OPIs receive ongoing and specialized training. The program was approved by the National System for Integral Family Development (SNDIF) and included the participation of: the National System for Integral Family Development (SNDIF), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Juvenile Integration Centers (CIJ), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Mexican Commission for Aid to Refugees (COMAR), the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES), and the National Council to Prevent Discrimination (CONAPRED).

The training materials centered on: human rights; emotional vocabulary; tips for effectively communicating with migrant children and adolescents; crisis care; children and adolescent's rights; International Protection (Asylum and Refugee); communication with migrant children and adolescents and their challenges; violence, mistreatment and abuse; trafficking and human trafficking; social welfare; access to justice; protection and migratory process; and Gender Equity.

The Child Protection Officers are also trained by INM staff properly for the administrative procedures associated with each migration process.

File exp / way OPI's address the issues in a practical, educational and



The Functions of the Child Protection Officers are:

- ✓Safeguard the physical and psychological integrity of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.
- ✓Identify immediate needs and ensure to provide children and adolescents basic health services, food, clothing and rest.
- ✓Provide children and adolescents the contact with their families through free phone calls.
- ✓Keep children and adolescents properly and timely informed about their rights and migration process.



- ✓Inform all unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents the options that safeguard their physical and psychological integrity in Mexico, such as refugee status or complementary protection.
- ✓To follow at all times unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, for example, in the practice of medical examination, the administrative migration procedure, phone calls to family members, in interviews, at the repatriation to their country of origin, and so on.
- ✓Identify potential victims of crime.

Ensuring the right to the information access and the family contact for unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents NEXTEL-INM-UNICEF.

✓Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents pass through many obstacles on their journey and also live complex situations during the immigration procedures.

✓The level of stress and anxiety of a child who can not call their families to inform them that is in an immigration station in another country than his/her own, could cause significant emotional damage. And the uncertainty of the family not knowing in which country and under what conditions is the child becomes overwhelming.

✓Therefore, it is necessary to guarantee the right to maintain contact with his or her family. This is a right provided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

✓Nextel Mexico showed interest in this great work of securing the right to family contact for unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, providing telephone lines, telephone sets and the total cost of free international calls for children to talk to their families in other countries. Also, a "Protocol of calls for unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents-the right to the family contact", was prepared for this purpose.

✓The telephone lines were installed from the second semester of 2008 and first semester of 2009 in 21 immigration centers: Aguascalientes, Tijuana, Campeche, Tapachula, Ciudad Juarez, Saltillo, Morelia, Puebla, Chetumal, San Luis Potosi, Mazatlan, Tenosique Villahermosa, Nuevo Laredo, Tlaxcala, Veracruz, Merida, Zacatecas, Iztapalapa, Queretaro and Acapulco.

✓In an unprecedented alliance of private sector, the federal government and an international agency, we are seeking to safeguard, through a free call, the right of the unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents to communicate with their parents or close family members.

NEXTEL®

The rights of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.

Into the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Law on Protection of Children and Adolescents, are planned and developed the rights that children should enjoy. The following is a general list of some of these rights:



The right to equality



The right to live free of violence



The right to healthcare



The right to be protected from sexual abuse and exploitation.



The right to education



The right to protection and freedom from war



The right to rest and play



The right to live with a family who cares for you.



The right to freedom of expression and access to information



The right of the disabled child to special care

National and international legislation that protects the rights of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.

- ✓The Political Constitution of Mexico (Articles 4 and 18).
- ✓Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- ✓Immigration Law (May 2011)
- ✓Refugee Protection and Complementary Act (January, 2011).
- ✓General Law on Population (1974).
- ✓The Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents.
- ✓The Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.
- ✓Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in armed conflicts.
- ✓The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- ✓Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination, 2003.
- ✓The Federal Law to Prevent and Punish Torture, 1991.
- ✓The Federal Law to Prevent and Punish Trafficking in Persons, 2007.



New Immigration Law in Mexico

The new Immigration Law was enacted on May 25, 2011 in the Official Journal of the Federation. It highlights the following articles relating to the protection of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents:

✓Article 2 Principles that the Mexican Immigration Policy must be based, among which are:

- Unrestricted respect for human rights of migrants, national and foreign, whatever their origin, nationality, gender, ethnicity, age and immigration status, with special attention to vulnerable groups, such as children, women, indigenous people, adolescents and elderly people, as well as victims of crime.

- Familiar unit and best interest of the children and adolescents.

- Shared responsibility with governments of different countries and between domestic and foreign institutions on migration theme.

✓Article 11 The children and adolescents have the right of an enforcement of justice, respecting the right to due process and taking into account their age and their best interest.

✓Article 29 The National System for Integral Family Development (SNDIF) and local DIF Systems will provide social assistance, accommodation and protection to unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.

✓Article 73, 74 and 75 Emphasize proper attention to vulnerable migrants. Also the procedure to be followed in determining the best interest of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.

✓Article 112 Establishes the procedure care of vulnerable people, in this case of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, ensuring them the protection of their human rights and best interest.



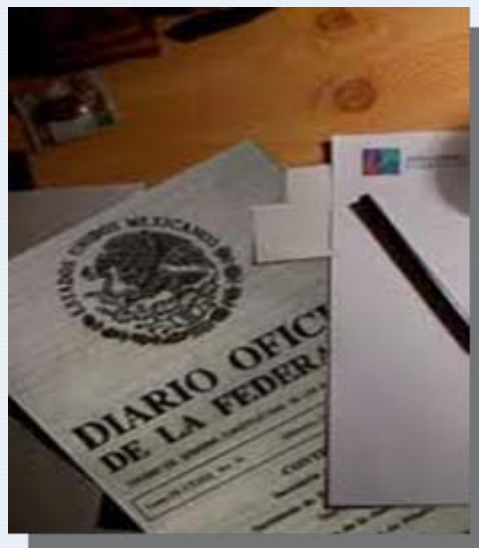
Institutional documents that have been published in the Official Journal of the Federation, to protect and safeguard the rights of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.

✓ The Manual of Criteria and Procedures of the National Institute of Migration, 2010 (Refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons).

✓ Agreement to establish the criteria according to which, foreigners of any nationality who are illegally in México and express their interest to reside in it, can promote the production of immigration documents in the quality of immigrant the characteristics of professional position of trust, scientific, technical, family, artists or athletes or in the characteristic of the cases treated in an exceptional set in the present, Official Journal of the Federation, November 11, 2008.

✓ Standards for the Operation of the Immigration Centers of the National Migration Institute, Official Journal of the Federation, October 7, 2009.

✓ Circular No. 001/2010, which instructs the procedure for the care of the unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, Official Journal of the Federation, February 12, 2010.



Inside the Circular No. 001/2010, which instructs the procedure for the care of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, the procedures for care of unaccompanied Mexican and foreign migrant children and adolescents are defined.

Procedure Care for Unaccompanied Mexican migrant children and adolescents.

- ✓The Child Protection Officer will be in charge of the reception of the unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents who are repatriated by the authorities of other Country and probably have the Mexican nationality.
- ✓ The Child Protection Officer will interview with the unaccompanied migrant children and adolescent to identify his/her nationality, physical and mental status, among others.
- ✓The Child Protection Officer should inform all unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents about their rights in a properly language according to their age.
- ✓Immediately, the unaccompanied Mexican migrant children and adolescents will be channelled to the National or Municipal System for Integral Family Development, where they will receive the necessary attention, as well as the services of representation and legal assistance and social orientation.



Procedure Care for Unaccompanied Foreign Migrant Children and Adolescents

✓The Child Protection Officer will interview the unaccompanied migrant child or adolescent in order to check whether he or she entered to national territory with a family blood member in any degree. If not, the Child Protection Officer must identify, he or she as an unaccompanied migrant children or adolescent.

✓The Child Protection Officer will do an interview to verify the citizenship and personal data. Also, to detect medical or psychological care; if it's the case, the child or adolescent will be referred immediately to a specialized institution.

✓The Child Protection Officer should inform the unaccompanied migrant children or adolescents about their rights, in a proper language according to their age.

✓The Child Protection Officer should identify and determine whether the child or adolescent was a victim of violence, sexual or labor exploitation, trafficking or refugee claimant. If so, The Child Protection Officer will start with the appropriate process and will accompany the child or adolescent in all subsequent actions.

✓If there isn't any need that requires immediate medical attention, the unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents will be directed to the nearest immigration center.

✓If the Child Protection Officer detects that a child or adolescent was victim of a crime in our country or in the country of origin, he or she must inform the child or adolescent, in a adequate language for their age, the right to seek the refugee status or complementary protection. If special attention is required, the OPI must channel the child or adolescent to a specialized institution while his immigration status is resolved, responding to best interests of the child.

✓For those cases where resolution is the repatriation of the child or adolescent, the OPI will contact the diplomatic or consular representative and will notify the date and time that will take effect the repatriation in which case the child or his country

Note: The procedure Care for unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents varies by case. We recommend reviewing the Circular No. 001/2010, which instructs the procedure for the care of the unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents. Official Journal of the Federation, February 12, 2010.

Cares Units for unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents

As part of the care strategy for unaccompanied Mexican and foreign migrant childhood, the National Institute of Migration has signed specific collaboration agreements with the National System for Integral Family Development (SNDIF) and the local systems of the Integral Family Development for the installation of Care Units for unaccompanied Mexican and foreign migrant children and adolescents, in the northern and southern

On the northern border have been installed 10 Care Units and they have the task of receive all the unaccompanied Mexican migrant children and adolescent from United States. These are located mainly at booths and international bridges. On the southern border, there are 4 Care Units which are located shared spaces at migratory centers.



These Care Units serve unaccompanied foreign and Mexican migrant children and adolescents. Children and adolescents are assisted by Child Protection Officers, and the main objective of the Care Unit is to prevent and address their needs, in order to provide protection and ensure the full exercise of their rights under Mexican law and other international and multilateral arrangements, and to provide them a comprehensive and compassionate care.

Northern Border Care Units	Southern Border Care Units
Reynosa and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Tenosique, Tabasco.
Tijuana and Mexicali at Baja California	Tapachula, Chiapas
San Luis Río Colorado, Agua Prieta and Nogales at Sonora	Acayucan, Veracruz
Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua	La Ventosa, Oaxaca
Piedras Negras and Cd. Acuña at Coahuila	

The Child Protection Officers in Latin America and the Caribbean

Under the agreements established in the Regional Conference on Migration 2009, and specifically, following the implementation of the "Regional Guidelines for the Care of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents in Cases of Repatriation," the National Institute of Migration trained officials from Guatemala and El Salvador as Child Protection Officers in 2009.

During 2010, training was provided to government officials from Honduras and the Dominican Republic as Child Protection Officers. These 4 countries adopted this model to assist in the care of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents , and to ensure the respect for their human rights.

From February 28 to March 4, 2011, a new training was given in Guatemala, attended by 75 people from various agencies of the country.



Guatemala and El Salvador



Honduras



República Dominicana



Guatemala (2011)

A Child Protection Officer's wish

We go together to fight
To protect infants
Working together
Defending childhood.

Whether you're a boy a girl or an adolescent
And wherever you are
No matter it is day or night
A Child Protection Officer will be present.

I know that maybe you're tired
And you may not want to talk
I am a Child Protection Officer
And today I came to help you.

I don't know the cause
Why you are here today
But my mission is to help
And so I stand before you.

At the end of the day
I will be satisfied
To provide you all the help
that can protect you.

If you arrive at your country
And you've forgotten me
I just want you to remember
That in México a Child Protection Officer tried
to help you.

"I dedicate these words from my deep respect for the migrant children and adolescents that today still travel alone around the world"



Jorge Gonzalez Citalán, Regional Delegation of Chiapas.

Comprehensive training course to the third generation of Child Protection Officers, March 2010.