

Hi all-Answers to these questions are below.

**Roughly how many separations have happened in the last 5 months where children referred to ORR's care were separated (as designated by CBP, or after the fact by ORR case managers) from a parent/guardian who was sent back to Mexico?**

ORR has identified 6 separated children whose parent/guardian were sent to Mexico under the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP). There may be additional minors who were separated pursuant to the MPP where the cause of separation has not yet been identified by ORR as MPP-related. ORR is currently consulting with ICE to determine if there are any other children in care or previously referred whose parents/guardians were sent to Mexico.

**Has ORR seen an uptick in these kind of situations lately?**

This is a new cause of separation. ORR is working with ICE to determine if there are additional cases not yet identified by ORR as MPP-related.

What does ORR do in these cases?

ORR programs experience significant challenges serving children who were separated from parents under MPP, because in many cases parents cannot be located or contacted in Mexico. The inability to contact parents negatively impacts program operations with regard to case management decisions, medical information and consent to medical procedures, options for reunification with parents, and other aspects of programmatic operations which routinely involve contact and communication with parents. To mitigate these significant challenges, ORR is working with ICE Parental Interest Group (PIG) to locate these parents/guardians so that ORR can establish communication between the child and parent/guardian. PIG assisted ORR programs by providing the programs with names of shelters where the parent/guardian may be staying. ORR programs are making best efforts to contact these parents/guardians.

**What does ORR want to happen in these cases?**

Families should be kept together, and children should not be separated unless for cause. Children should not be deemed unaccompanied if they enter the U.S. with parents, unless the parents meet other strict criteria for cause for separation, such as criminal history or communicable disease.

**What kind of conversations are happening between ORR and CBP about these situations?**

Discussions regarding implications of separations occurring related to MPP are underway between legal counsel for the two Departments. Additionally, there is operational coordination between ORR and DHS components regarding specific cases and efforts to establish contact with parents who have been returned to Mexico.