

Muster

Date: May 09, 2022

Topic: Updated Recordation and Linking of Family Units and Family Groups

Headquarters POCs: Enforcement Programs Division (EPD)
(b) (7)(E)

Office: Admissibility and Passenger Programs (APP)

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers are reminded that when an applicant for admission is encountered as part of a family unit or a family group and is determined to be inadmissible to the United States, all individuals in such unit/group must be recorded in the secondary processing system (e.g., Unified Secondary) and appropriately linked for family unity identification purposes and tracking.
- Effective immediately, the name(s), date(s) of birth, and A-number(s) are required to be annotated on the Form I-213 *Record of Deportable/Inadmissible Alien* for noncitizens identified as members of a family unit. This annotation is also required for certain family groups, specifically family groups comprised of spouses encountered without children and parents encountered with their unmarried adult children under 21 years of age. CBP officers may link additional family group members beyond this requirement, as appropriate.
 - If appropriately linked as a family unit/group in Unified Secondary, these required values, as well as the role in the family unit/group, will be automatically populated in the I-213.
- **Family Unit:** For the purpose of CBP processing, a family unit is defined as at least one noncitizen child under the age of 18 and at least one noncitizen adult parent or legal guardian, all of whom are inadmissible and/or subject to removal.
- **Family Group:** A family group is defined as a group of individuals, related by blood or marriage, regardless of age encountered together at the same date, time, and port of entry. This includes but is not limited to:
 - A parent under the age of 18 and their child, who would, absent the minor parent being accompanied by their parent/legal guardian, both be considered and processed as unaccompanied noncitizen children (UC) consistent with current law and policy. Generally, under these circumstances, the UC parent and their child should be referred together to Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).
 - Two or more siblings all under the age of 18 not accompanied by their parent/legal guardian.
 - Adult noncitizen spouses.
 - An adult noncitizen parent and their unmarried adult noncitizen children under age 21.
- When processing a minor identified as a UC, CBP officers shall link any family members encountered together with the UC as part of a family group in Unified Secondary. This

linking should be completed for any family member whose relationship to the minor can be detailed in the (b) (7)(E)

- Linking of individuals as part of a family unit/group does not change the processing disposition. Individuals not encountered as part of a family unit and not identified as UCs will continue to be processed as single adults.
- Step-by-step user guides for linking family groups and family units can be found (b) (7)(E)