



- **Regulates removal for ALL unaccompanied children (UC)**
 - Safe and sustainable
 - Screen for potential trafficking risks
 - Screen for potential harm if returned

- **DHS with HHS required to develop policies and procedures for removal**
 - Ensure safe removal
 - To the country of nationality
 - Last habitual residence



- **DHS must abide by special requirements**
 - Contiguous Country UC Screening
 - UC has not been a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons
 - There is credible evidence of risk of being trafficked
 - UC does not have fear to return to home country or last habitual residence
 - UC can make an independent decision to withdraw/return
 - 14 years of age older can consider decision
 - Presume 14 yrs and under cannot make decision on their own



- **US Govt. shall negotiate Local Repatriation Agreements (LRAs) with Contiguous Countries**
 - Must be designed to protect from severe forms of trafficking
 - At minimum,
 - (i) no child shall be returned to the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence unless returned to appropriate employees or officials, including child welfare officials where available, of the accepting country's government;
 - (ii) no child shall be returned to the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence outside of reasonable business hours; and
 - (iii) border personnel of the countries that are parties to such agreements are trained in the terms of such agreements.



- FOJC should coordinate interviews for UC and Family Units (FAMU) with their respective consulates as soon as the order of removal is final.
- If the FOJC encounters difficulty in obtaining a Travel Document (TD) for a UC or FAMU, please contact the appropriate RIO desk officer.
- ***The earlier the RIO desk officer is engaged on a difficult case, the greater the likelihood of successful removal!***
- As always, when corresponding with the consulate (either in writing or in person), please maintain professionalism and employ your negotiation and liaison skills.

Removal — General Information



U.S. Immigration
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Enforcement

- ERO must coordinate UC and FAMU removals with the local consulate, and provide at least 72 hours advance notice to the consulate prior to removal.
- Generally, removals must take place during daylight hours and UC or FAMU must be turned over to the proper authorities in person.
- UC and FAMU must be medically cleared by Immigration Health Services Corps (IHSC) prior to removal.

Removal to Contiguous Countries



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

- If a Mexican national UC or FAMU is determined to reside in the Northern Border States of Mexico or in the State of Baja California Sur, ERO is able to repatriate via ground transportation methods.
- The Mexican Consulate will conduct interviews prior to removal.
- Removals must be consistent with the schedules and conditions identified within any applicable Local Arrangements for the Repatriation of Mexican Nationals.

Removal to Non-contiguous Countries



U.S. Immigration
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Enforcement

- Removal of UC and FAMU to non-contiguous countries and to the interior of Mexico occur via commercial removal or ICE Air Operations (IAO) chartered flights.
- Commercial removal is the preferred method for removing UC.
- IAO charter is the preferred method for removing FAMU; however, if any family member is considered ineligible for the charter, the FAMU will be removed via other means.
- IAO charters to Guatemala, El Salvador and the interior of Mexico occur several times a week, and with coordination, UC and FAMU could be included on these flights.



- To include UC and FAMU on chartered flights, please contact the appropriate RIO desk officer.
- The RIO desk officer will work in conjunction with IAO and the Assistant Attaché for Removals (AAR) in-country to coordinate the removal with the FOJC.
- When a UC is included on an IAO chartered flight, the consular official may accompany the UC.

Repatriation Operations to Central America



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

ERO typically repatriates Salvadoran, Guatemalan and Honduran nationals via IAO chartered flights. Sometimes, on as needed basis, IAO coordinates additional removals to those countries via commercial airlines.

- **Guatemala** – Up to 20 IAO charter flights per week, 135 aliens per flight. IAO charters allow individual adults, UC over the age of 14, and FAMUs. UC under the age of 14 are repatriated via commercial aircraft.
- **El Salvador** – Up to 8 IAO charter flights per week, 135 aliens per flight. IAO charters allow individual adults and FAMUs. UC are repatriated via commercial aircraft.
- **Honduras** – Up to 10 IAO charter flights per week, 135 aliens per flight. IAO charters allow individual adults and FAMUs. UC are generally repatriated via commercial aircraft.





EL SALVADOR

- UC may be removed via commercial aircraft or IAO flights. If removed via IAO flights, a Consular officer needs to accompany the UC on the IAO flight.
- FAMU can be removed via IAO chartered flights in combination with individual adults.
- El Salvador allows ICE to conduct FAMU only removal flights on an as needed basis. IAO chartered flights are the preferred method of removal for FAMUs if the scheduled date/time is most expedient.
- There is no flexibility on the notification periods for UC/FAMU removals. The notification period is 2 days.

HONDURAS

- UCs must be removed via commercial aircraft.
- FAMUs can be removed via IAO on FAMU only flights or via commercial aircraft. The current preferred method of removal for FAMUs is via commercial aircraft.
- There is no flexibility on the notification periods for UC/FAMU removals. The notification period is 2 days.



GUATEMALA

- UC under the age of 14 must be removed via commercial aircraft.
- FAMUs and UCs 14 and older can be removed via ICE Air Operations (IAO) chartered flights with single adults. ICE does have the availability to conduct family unit only removal flights on an as needed basis.
- IAO flights are the preferred method of removal for FAMUs and UCs that are 14 years and older.
- For UCs who are removed either via commercial airline or IAO, please provide a family phone contact number in Guatemala to IAO via the manifest.
- There is no flexibility on the notification periods for UC/FAMU removals. The notification period is 3 days for criminals, 3 days for mixed criminal/non-criminal flights and 2 days for non-criminal flights.
- To minimize ICE expenses and if the UC/FAMU is amenable to removal via IAO chartered flight, the field can coordinate commercial meet/greet and then transfer the UC/FAMU to a IAO chartered flight for removal as long as the Assistant Attaché for Repatriations (AAR) is notified in advance via manifest.
- Guatemala requires a regular TD to be issued for every UC/FAMU case. If for some reason the consulate insists on issuing a certified declaration in lieu of regular TD then notify the RIO officer and the AAR in advance to avoid concerns upon arrival for these special cases.
- Please continue to utilize eTD on these cases as required. This helps the AAR in the event that a paper TD is missing upon arrival.

Key “Take-Aways” From this Training



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

- Travel documents must be obtained for all UC and FAMU. If you encounter difficulties, contact RIO officers as soon as possible—we want to hear from you!
- If you want to include UC or FAMU on IAO chartered flights, contact RIO officers for coordination.
- To ensure all removals are safe and humane, ample advance notice is needed for coordination efforts between the field office, IAO, RIO, the AARs and the consular official for the removal country. The FOJC should be involved in all of these coordination efforts!

