Unaccompanied Alien Children: A Processing Flow Chart

Department of Homeland Security: Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol

Apprehends Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC)

Department of Homeland Security: Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol

For contiguous country UAC, **processes voluntary returns,** available only to UAC from contiguous countries (Mexico & Canada). Voluntary returns must be processed within 48 hours of apprehension.

Department of Homeland Security: Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol

Adjudicates Special Immigrant Juvenile applications no later than 180 days after receipt of application.**

(The UAC is still transferred to Office of Refugee Resettlement for placement.)

Department of Homeland Security: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Adjudicates claims for asylum and processes trafficking and Special Immigrant Juvenile petitions.

If asylum, trafficking and Special Immigration Visa denied

- * Customs and Border Protection officers at ports of entry (POEs) also encounter UAC; however, the majority of UAC are apprehended between POEs by the Border Patrol.
- ** A UAC can file a Special Immigrant Juvenile petition at any point.

Department of Homeland Security: Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol*

Screens contiguous country UAC within 48 hours for claims of persecution, trafficking and fear of trafficking, as well as willingness to return home voluntarily.

Screens third country UAC for claims of persecution, trafficking and fear of trafficking.

Department of Homeland Security: Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Transports non-contiguous country UAC to Office of Refugee Resettlement within 72 hours.

Transports contiguous country UAC who are not voluntarily returned to Office of Refugee Resettlement immediately.

Department of Homeland Security: Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol

Gives a Notice to Appear and places UAC in formal removal proceedings.

Department of Health and Human Services: Office of Refugee Resettlement

Assumes custody and placement for the UAC either with family or with a sponsor, in a shelter, foster home, or (in rare cases) a secure facility.

Department of Justice: Executive Office for Immigration Review

Hears and decides removal cases.



Department of Homeland Security: Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Effectuates removal.