

Supplemental Materials and Resources

Topic #1: Unaccompanied Minors: State Action and Legislative Implications

Last year, increasing numbers of children crossed the southern border, including a record number of children unaccompanied by a parent or another adult. Long before this issue became a crisis, the federal government carved out special immigration status for children, including those who come to the United States without parental supervision who have been abused, abandoned or neglected and/or have been victims of violent crimes. Many of these forms of relief require state action as a predicate to the child obtaining immigration status. Professor Sarah Rogerson of Albany Law School provides an overview of the state actions implicated and possible areas for cost-saving reforms.

Materials:

- [Administrative Directive from New York State Office of Children and Family Services re: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status \(SIJS\)](#)
 - Urging the screening of foster care youth for SIJ eligibility
- [Congressional Research Service, Unaccompanied Alien Children: Potential Factors Contributing to Recent Immigration](#)
 - Summarizing the migration factors leading to the recent growth in the number of unaccompanied minor children from Central America
- [Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Order Template in New York Family Courts](#)
- [Office of Refugee Resettlement: Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors by County](#)
 - County-level data for unaccompanied children released to sponsors

Topic #2: State Benefits and State-Issued Identification Documents for Immigrants

A limited number of state benefits are available to those who lack immigration status. A related issue, the availability of state-issued identification documents to those who lack immigration status, has been a regular topic of conversation in state legislatures across the United States. New York has been at the center of a number of debates on the issue. Mevlude Akay, Immigration Attorney with Empire Justice Center provides a summary of state benefits available and the issue of state issued identification documents.

Materials:

- NYC Administration for Children's Services Report on Government-Issued Personal Identification for Youth in Foster Care
- [Empire Justice Center, Health Coverage Crosswalk: Eligibility by Immigration Status](#)
 - Helpful guide to immigrant eligibility for certain federal and state benefits

- [Empire Justice Center, New York's Exchange Portal: A Gateway to Coverage for Immigrants](#)

Topic #3: State Support for Immigrant Legal Services

The New York State Legislature recently passed legislation intended to criminalize the fraudulent provision of legal services by “notarios” and other disreputable organizations to unsuspecting immigrant victims. Meanwhile, despite the increase in the immigrant population in New York, the availability of legal services, particularly upstate, is sparse. State offices like the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services and the Office for New Americans provide certain legal services to immigrants facing criminal convictions and those hoping to naturalize and become citizens. Anne Erickson, Executive Director of Empire Justice Center identifies additional areas of need that may be addressed through state-based legal services initiatives.

Materials:

- [Denny Chin, *Representation of the Immigrant Poor: Upstate New York*, 33 *Cardozo L. Rev.* 351 \(2011\).](#)
 - Describing the lack of legal services available to immigrants in upstate New York
- Representation is Key in Immigration Proceedings Involving Women with Children <http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/377/>
- Representation for Unaccompanied Children in Immigration Court <http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/371/>

Additional Materials

- Relevant proposed legislation from the 2014 Legislative Session
 - Immigrant Assistance Service Enforcement Act (A08974) (Passed; Effective February 2, 2015)
 - New York Dream Act (A00022)
 - New York Is Home Act (S07879)
 - Legislation re: Drivers Licenses (A07233)
 - Legislation re: Drivers Licenses (S02106)
 - Legislation re: Financial Aid & Scholarships (S01747)