



International Refugee
Assistance Project

Settlement in Central American Minors (CAM) Parole Case: Frequently Asked Questions

*The International Refugee Assistance Project (“IRAP”) provides free legal help to refugees and displaced people. IRAP is not part of the U.S. government or IOM. This guide provides general information about the settlement in *S.A. v. Trump*, in which IRAP challenged the end of the CAM Parole program. It is not meant as legal advice for individual applicants.*

This information was revised in May 2019. If you believe that you will benefit from the settlement, please contact info@menoresCAM.com or (917) 410-7546 for more information.

Background on the CAM Parole Program

1. What is the CAM Parole program?

- The CAM Program allowed children and certain related family members living in danger in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala to reunite with the children’s parents living in the United States. Under the program, the U.S. government first decided whether children were eligible for refugee status. If not, the government considered children on a case by case basis for humanitarian parole, a temporary status allowing children to enter and temporarily stay in the United States, under the CAM Parole program

2. What did it mean to be “conditionally approved” for parole under the CAM Parole program?

- If the government decided to grant parole under the CAM Parole program, it issued a letter to the children stating that they were “conditionally approved.” This meant that the child and any qualified relatives could travel to the United States once they completed medical checks, cleared final security checks, and paid for a plane ticket. [This is an example](#) of a letter granting conditional approval for parole

3. When did the CAM Parole program end?

- In early 2017, the Trump Administration secretly shut down the CAM Parole program without informing the public.
- In August 2017, the Trump Administration officially shut down the CAM Parole program and revoked conditional approvals for parole from approximately 2,700 children and family members who were in final stages of application processing.



International Refugee
Assistance Project

CAM Parole Lawsuit and Settlement

4. I saw the CAM Parole program in the news. What happened?

- Last year, IRAP and the law firm Arnold & Porter sued the Trump Administration over its termination of the CAM Parole program.
- The federal court agreed that the Trump Administration acted unlawfully when it stopped processing the children and family members with conditional approval for parole, and the court ordered the government to restart CAM processing for those people.
- On April 12, 2019, we entered into [an agreement with the government](#) that guarantees that the government will process the approximately 2,700 people who had conditional approval for parole as of August 2017.

5. Who is eligible for resumed processing under the settlement?

- Only CAM applicants who received a conditional parole decision before the CAM Parole program ended on August 16, 2017 are eligible for processing. [This is an example of a letter](#) granting conditional approval for parole.
- The settlement does not apply to you if you were in early stages of CAM processing in August 2017. For example, it does not apply to you if as of August 16, 2017, you had not yet:
 - i. Done a pre-screening interview with IOM
 - ii. Taken a DNA test and received the results
 - iii. Done an interview with USCIS
 - iv. Received a decision from USCIS about your application

6. How do I know if I was conditionally approved for parole and had my status revoked?

- The best way to know for sure is if you have a copy of the letter granting conditional approval for parole. The letter will look like [this](#) and it will have the words NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE on the last or second to last page.
- If you were conditionally approved for parole, you may have gone through these processing steps (but not all conditionally approved applicants will have completed all of these steps):
 - i. You traveled to the capital city of your country multiple times:
 1. Once for a pre-screening interview
 2. Once for a DNA test
 3. Once for an interview with USCIS
 4. Once to receive your decision letter and counseling



International Refugee
Assistance Project

- ii. You received a paper called a Notice of Ineligibility for Refugee Resettlement that said you were not eligible for refugee resettlement but you were eligible for conditional parole. [This is an example of a letter](#) granting conditional approval for parole.
- iii. You were told you could expect to travel to the United States in a few months. You may have scheduled or completed medical exams. Your parents may have paid for plane tickets.
- iv. In August 2017 or later, you received a paper saying that your conditional parole was being revoked and you could request for review of the denial of your request for refugee status. This is an example of a letter revoking approval for parole.

7. What does being eligible for processing under the settlement mean? Will I be allowed to enter the US and reunite with my parent?

- Being eligible for processing means the government has agreed to finish processing your CAM Parole application using the rules that were in place on January 1, 2017-- before the Trump Administration began shutting the program down.
- Processing does not guarantee that you will ultimately be able to enter the United States with parole, but the government has said that it expects the majority of conditionally approved people to be granted parole and allowed to enter the United States.

Re-Starting of the CAM Parole Program

8. What do I have to do for processing to re-start?

- The government has said that it will provide notice to U.S.-based parents and in-country beneficiaries about what you have to do in order to re-start processing your CAM application.
 - i. "U.S.-based parents" are the parents living in the United States who sponsored the CAM parole application.
 - ii. "In-country beneficiaries" are the qualifying children and other relatives who are in Honduras, El Salvador, or Guatemala.
- The government will start reaching out to U.S.-based parents in June 2019. The government will use the last known contact information that it has on file for the U.S.-based parents. If you are a U.S.-based parent and you have changed your address, phone number, or email address, you may not receive the government's notice. Please contact us at info@menoresCAM.com or (917) 410-7546 if you believe you may qualify for processing.



International Refugee
Assistance Project

- The government will start reaching out to in-country beneficiaries in July and August 2019 through the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- 9. Before the CAM Parole program ended, I had completed my medical exam. Do I need to redo the medical exam if I already had it done?**
- Yes. Medical examination results expire after 6 months so all in-country beneficiaries must redo their medical exams.
 - The government plans to begin collecting money for the exams and scheduling them in late August 2019.
- 10. Before the CAM Parole program ended, my parents and I had paid for plane tickets. Do we need to pay for plane tickets again?**
- Yes. Just as before, if in-country beneficiaries successfully complete the other processing stages, they will be asked to pre-purchase their plane tickets to the United States.
 - The government plans to begin collecting money for flights in mid-October 2019.
- 11. What happens if I am an in-country qualifying child, and I am more than 21 years old now?**
- Your age today has no effect on your eligibility for CAM. To be eligible for CAM, your parent must have filed an application on your behalf (Affidavit of Relationship) before your 21st birthday.
- 12. What happens if I am an in-country qualifying child, and I have gotten married?**
- If you are a qualifying child and you are legally married, you are no longer eligible for CAM. If, however, you are a relative of a qualifying child (such as a biological parent married to a parent in the United States), your marital status does not affect your eligibility.
- 13. What happens if I am an in-country qualifying child, and I have had a child?**
- Having a child has no effect on your eligibility for CAM. If you have had a child, your child may be eligible to be added on to your CAM case. If you are granted parole, your child may also be granted parole into the United States.
- 14. What happens if I am an in-country qualifying child, and I now live somewhere other than the country where I was born?**
- To be eligible for CAM processing, you must be located in one of the CAM countries (El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala). If you are currently located outside those countries, you may return to the CAM countries to be processed. If you are located in CAM country that is not your native country, you may be eligible for CAM processing in that country. Please contact us for more information at info@menoresCAM.com or (917) 410-7546.



International Refugee
Assistance Project

15. What happens if I am an in-country qualifying child, and I have been deported from the U.S. in the past?

- Being deported from the United States in the past does not automatically disqualify you from CAM processing. Prior deportation may, however, be considered by the government in deciding whether to grant you parole and allow you to travel to the United States.
- If you are currently in the United States, you are not eligible for CAM processing; you must be in El Salvador, Honduras, or Guatemala to be processed.

16. What happens if I am an in-country qualifying child and I no longer want to come to the U.S.?

- If you are eligible for the resumption of CAM Parole processing, it is your choice whether to participate. If you are not interested in coming to the United States, you do not need to participate in processing.

17. What happens if I am an in-country qualifying child and I filed a Request for Review (RFR) of refugee status that was denied?

- Having a denied RFR has no effect on your eligibility for resumed CAM Parole processing. Your RFR challenged the government's decision to deny you refugee resettlement in the United States and is separate from your CAM Parole case.

18. What happens if I am an in-country qualifying child and I did not file a Request for Review (RFR) of refugee status after my CAM parole was rescinded?

- Not filing an RFR has no effect on your eligibility for resumed CAM Parole processing. If you had filed an RFR, that would have challenged the government's decision to deny you refugee resettlement in the United States; this is separate from your CAM Parole case.

19. What happens if I'm a U.S.-based parent who filed a CAM application, and I no longer have legal status in the U.S.?

- In order for your in-country beneficiaries to be eligible for resumed CAM processing, the U.S.-based parent who filed the CAM application must be lawfully present in the United States. Lawful status includes Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Lawful Permanent Resident Status (LPR), Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Deferred Action (non-DACA), Deferred Enforced Departure, Withholding of Removal, and Parolee.

20. What happens if I think I'm eligible for processing, and I've changed my address or other contact information?

- If you think you're eligible for resumed CAM Parole processing, please contact IRAP at info@menoresCAM.com or (917) 410-7546. You will need to provide your updated information to the government to receive notice of next steps.

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