



International Refugee Assistance Project

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 is not meant as legal advice for individual applicants. This information was revised in August 2019.

Central American Minors (CAM) Parole: Guide for Advocates Assisting CAM Families

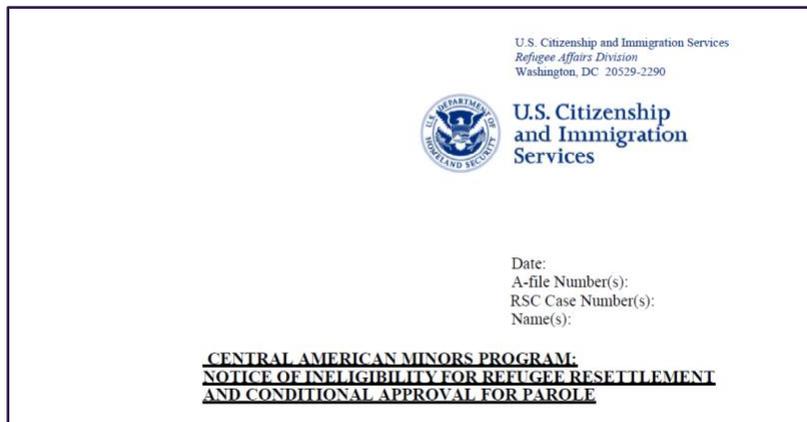
As a result of a recent court decision in a case called *S.A. v. Trump*, the U.S. government re-opened the CAM Parole program for about 2,700 people in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala who had received conditional approval for CAM parole but did not travel to the United States because the Trump Administration ended the program. This guide provides information to advocates who are helping CAM families benefit from the court decision. **Thank you for helping the CAM families!**

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Part I: Background on CAM Parole Program and Lawsuit

1. What is the CAM program?

- Applying for the CAM 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 with lawful status. Families were eligible for the CAM program if:
 - i. Parents were living lawfully in the United States with one of the following immigration statuses: 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; and
 - ii. Children were living in danger in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Certain related family members of the children could be included on the CAM application – for example, a parent living with the child in Central America if the parent was married to the U.S.-based parent applicant.
- Receiving a Decision: Under the program, the children first had to take a DNA test confirming their relationship with the parent and do an in-person interview with a government officer. Then, the U.S. government issued a decision letter to the children communicating one of three possible decisions: (1) eligible for refugee resettlement; (2) not eligible for refugee resettlement but conditionally approved for parole; (3) denied for refugee resettlement and parole.
- Conditional Approval for Parole Decision: Each child and related family member who was conditionally approved for CAM parole received a notice that said NOTICE OF INELIGIBILITY FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND CONDITIONAL APPROVAL FOR PAROLE. The notice looked like this (example of a full letter is attached as Exhibit A):



- Processing After Receiving Conditional Approval for CAM Parole: After the children and the related family members received conditional approval, a government partner called IOM (International Organization for Migration) contacted them to schedule a medical exam. If they cleared the exam, the government completed final security checks. If they cleared final security checks, IOM contacted the family to pay for their flights to the United States and then IOM scheduled the flights. The government issued final approval for CAM parole once the children and the related family members arrived at a U.S. airport.
- Living in the United States with CAM Parole: CAM parole is a temporary status allowing people to enter and stay in the United States for up to two years. CAM parole status is different from CAM refugee status because it is temporary and does not come with government-sponsored refugee assistance.

2. When did the CAM Parole program end?

- In early 2017, the Trump Administration secretly ended the CAM Parole program.
- In August 2017, the Trump Administration officially ended 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. The children and family members who had conditional parole at the time the program ended received a NOTICE OF RESCISSION OF CONDITIONAL APPROVAL letter in August 2017 or later. The letter looked like this (example of a full letter is attached as Exhibit B):

<p>Mailing/Express Mailing Address: U.S. Embassy-San Salvador Attn: DHS-USCIS 3450 San Salvador Place, Washington, D.C. 20521-3450 Fax: (503) 2288-3330</p> <p>Street Address: U.S. Embassy-San Salvador Attn: DHS-USCIS Final Blvd. y Urb. Santa Elena Antiguo Cuscatlan, La Libertad, El Salvador</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Homeland Security San Salvador</p>  <p>U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services</p> <p>E-mail: CAM@uscis.dhs.gov</p>
<p>This notice is being provided to <<BENEFICIARY NAME>> on _____.</p>	
<p><<BENEFICIARY NAME>> <<BENEFICIARY ADDRESS>> <<BENEFICIARY ADDRESS>></p>	
<p><<BENEFICIARY'S A-NUMBER>></p>	
<p>Notice of Rescission of Conditional Approval</p>	

3. Why is the CAM Parole program open again?

- In 2018, IRAP and the law firm Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer 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, IRAP entered into [an agreement with the government](#) that guarantees that the government will process the applicants who had conditional approval for parole as of August 2017.

4. Who benefits from the decision to re-open CAM Parole under the court decision?

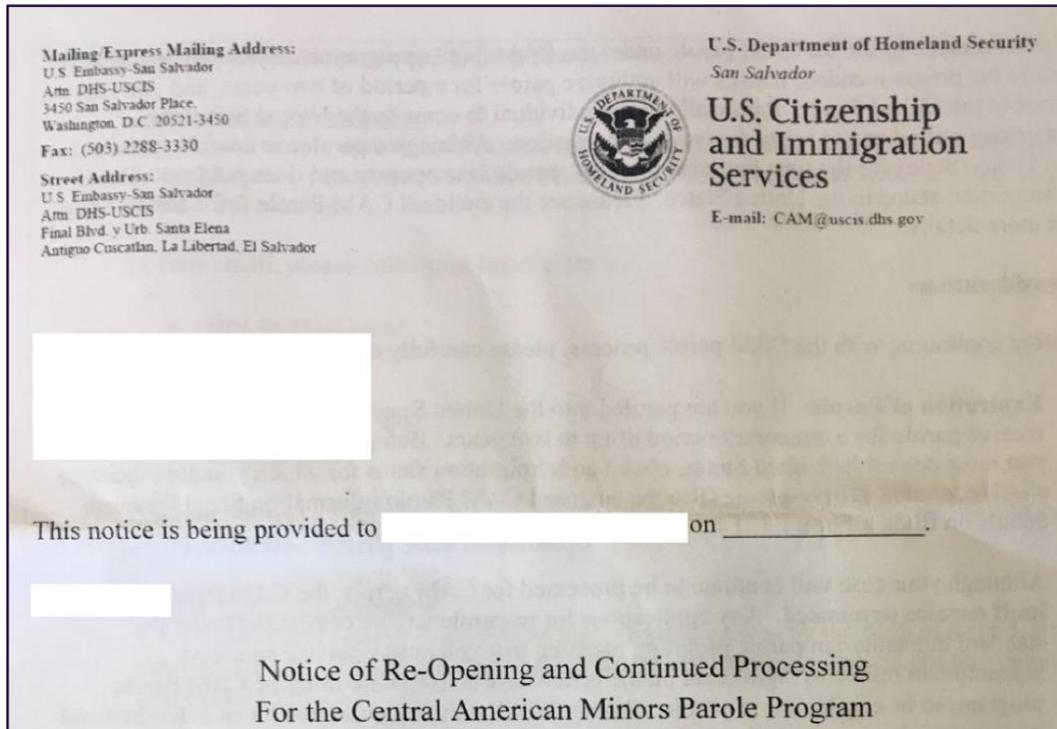
- There are about 2,700 CAM applicants in Central America who benefit from the court decision. The majority are in El Salvador. The majority of the parents who will reunite with their families as a result of the court decision are TPS holders.
- To be eligible for processing, an applicant must have been conditionally approved for parole before the CAM Parole program ended *and* they must remain eligible for the CAM program today:
 - i. You'll know the applicant received a conditional approval for parole in the past if they:
 1. Applied to CAM before 2017,
 2. Received a decision on their case before August 2017, and
 3. That decision was conditional approval for parole.
 - ii. You'll know the applicant remains eligible for the CAM program today if:
 1. The U.S. parent who applied to CAM continues to have lawful status in the U.S.,
 2. The applicant remains in El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras, and
 3. [For children applicants only] The child is not legally married.

Part II: Helping CAM Families Who Received a Letter from the Government regarding the Re-Opening of CAM Parole

If you are helping a CAM family who received a letter from the government about the re-opening of CAM Parole in summer 2019, this is likely good news that the family’s CAM application will be processed. Processing does not guarantee that children and relatives in Central America will ultimately be able to enter the United States with parole, but the government has said that it expects the majority of people receiving the letters to be granted parole and allowed to enter the United States. Follow the steps below.

1. Make sure that the family received the correct letter.

- It’s great news if the family received the letter below that said NOTICE OF RE-OPENING AND CONTINUED PROCESSING FOR THE CENTRAL AMERICAN MINORS PAROLE PROGRAM (example of a full letter is attached as Exhibit C). Most CAM families received this letter:



If the family received this letter, move on to step 2.

- About 17 U.S. parents received letters that said REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE at the end that looked like this (example of a full letter is attached as Exhibit D):

<p>Mailing/Express Mailing Address: U.S. Embassy-San Salvador Attn: DHS-USCIS 3450 San Salvador Place, Washington, D.C. 20521-3450 Fax: (503) 2288-3330</p> <p>Street Address: U.S. Embassy-San Salvador Attn: DHS-USCIS Final Blvd. y Urb. Santa Elena Antiguo Cuscatlan, La Libertad, El Salvador</p>		<p>U.S. Department of Homeland Security <i>San Salvador</i></p> <p>U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services</p> <p>E-mail: CAM@uscis.dhs.gov</p>
<p>This notice is being provided to _____ on _____.</p>		
<p>May 31, 2019</p>		
<p>Notice of Re-Opening and Continued Processing For the Central American Minors Parole Program and Request for Evidence</p>		

If the family received this letter, it means that the government believes that the U.S. parent no longer has lawful status in the United States. Help the U.S. parent find an immigration lawyer before taking any further steps in response to this notice. Resources for finding an immigration lawyer are available at <https://www.immi.org/es>.

2. Help the family members report changes to their contact information or family composition since the CAM application was filed.

- Contact information change: For each person on the application in Central America, ask whether they have changed their contact information (address, email, phone, mailing address) since the application was filed. It is especially important to know if they have changed the phone number IOM used to contact them in the past.
 - If there is a change to the contact information, help the U.S. parent report the change to the government by email (cam@uscis.dhs.gov) within 2 weeks of the

letter (or as soon as possible if 2 weeks have already passed). You may have to help the U.S. parent set up and monitor a new email account if they do not already have access to email. The email should include the following information for each person on the application in Central America who has changed their contact information:

- First and last name
 - A-number [this is the number that begins with “A” and has 9 digits—you can find it on the first page of the letter from the government]
 - Email address
 - Phone number
 - Mailing address
- Family composition change: For each person on the application in Central America, ask whether their family composition has changed – for example, if they got legally married or had children.
 - If a child on the application has gotten legally married, they are no longer eligible for CAM parole.
 - If a child or a related family member on the application has had a new child, that child can now join the application to come to the United States. Help the U.S. parent report the change to cam@uscis.dhs.gov within 2 weeks of the letter (or as soon as possible if 2 weeks have already passed). You may have to help the U.S. parent set up and monitor a new email account if they do not already have access to email. The email should include the following information:
 - The name of the new child
 - The relationship to the family member on the application
 - The new child’s date of birth
 - Other questions about processing: To answer more specific questions about how CAM parole processing affects certain families, refer to the FAQ (Exhibit E).

3. Help the family members navigate the process and prepare for arrival.

- Once the family members have reported any changes to contact information or family composition, or if there are no changes to report, there is nothing for the family to do until IOM or the government contacts the family. Please remind the families that this may take several months.

- Medical Exam: IOM or the government will contact the family members to start scheduling their required medical exams. Generally, IOM schedules the medical exams for the family, but due to delays in finalizing the contract between the government and IOM, the government is contacting some families and providing them with the information and documents they need to schedule their own medical exams. The medical exams can only be scheduled with a doctor authorized by the government. The family is required to pay for the medical exams (even if they already paid for exams in the past), and our understanding is that the medical exams cost approximately \$240 (U.S. dollars) per person.
- Re-interviews: The government may ask a small number of families for a re-interview. If a family you are helping is asked for a re-interview, contact the CAM Hotline at info@menoresCAM.com with subject line "CAM Re-interview" for assistance.
- Exit Procedures and Flight Scheduling: Once the medical exam is complete, the government will complete final security checks and reach out to the family to schedule flights. This may take several months. The family will have to pay for the flights. We do not yet know how much flights will cost, but in the past, they cost between \$1,000 and \$1,500 per person.

4. Once the family arrives to the United States, help them find immigration assistance.

Once the family arrives in the United States with CAM parole, it is important that you help them find an immigration lawyer immediately. CAM parole lasts for up to two years. The family might be able to apply for more permanent immigration relief, but there may be deadlines for filing that apply soon after arrival. For example, asylum applications should generally be filed within one year of arrival to the United States.

Part III: Helping CAM Families Who Did Not Receive a Letter from the Government regarding the Re-Opening of CAM Parole

Even if the family did not receive a letter, they might still be eligible for CAM parole processing under the court decision. Follow the steps below.

1. Use the government online tool and help those who qualify change their address with the government.

- Help the family locate their CAM case number from their CAM documents they received from the government in the past. The CAM case number begins with two letters (“ES” for El Salvador, “HO” for Honduras, “GT” for Guatemala) that are followed by 6 digits (e.g., ES-123456). The CAM Hotline has a [Spanish-language video](#) showing where to find the CAM case number on CAM paperwork. If the family does not have their paperwork, ask them to call the local resettlement agency that helped file the application to get the number.
- Once you have the CAM case number, use these links to access the government’s online search tool:
 - Spanish language version: <https://www.uscis.gov/es/programas-humanitarios/refugiados-y-asilo/refugiado/verificacion-de-casos-del-programa-de-permisos-humanitarios-para-menores-centroamericanos>
 - English language version: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-asylum/refugees/case-check-central-american-minors-parole-program>.
- If the page says that the family qualifies for processing, be sure to ask the U.S. parent if they still have lawful status in the United States. Also, ask the parent if they have been arrested or convicted of a crime after they originally filed the CAM application, as arrests or convictions can affect lawful status. CAM parole is only available to families for whom the U.S. parent continues to have lawful status in the United States, including 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.
 - If the U.S. parent still has lawful status in the United States, help the parent notify the government of their current address. The government will then send the U.S. parent a letter. The change of address should be filed by using AR-11, which is available here:
 - Spanish: <https://www.uscis.gov/es/formularios/ar-11>

- English: <https://www.uscis.gov/ar-11>.
- If the U.S. parent is unsure about their status, or if the U.S. parent has recently been arrested or convicted of a crime, help the U.S. parent connect with an immigration lawyer. Resources for finding an immigration lawyer are available at <https://www.immi.org/es>.

2. Figure out if the government online tool is incorrect.

- If the government on-line tool says that the family does not qualify for processing, it is because the government believes that the children and related family members did not receive conditional approval for parole before the CAM Parole program ended.
- The family may be able to show that the government is wrong if they have a copy of their NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE (Exhibit A) or NOTICE OF RESCISSION OF CONDITIONAL PAROLE (Exhibit B).
 - If a family has a copy of these documents but the on-line tool is showing that the family does not qualify for processing, contact the CAM Hotline at info@menoresCAM.com with subject line "Government On-line Tool Mistake" for assistance.