



# Standards Update:

## Resettlement Practice with Separated and Unaccompanied Children CA-IRR 9

**Publication:** 8<sup>th</sup> Edition\Canadian

**Issue:** Revised Research Note

**Effective Date:** June 1, 2007

**Discussion:** Based on research and response from the field, this research note has been revised to reflect best practice. This Standards Update applies to all organisations whose Accreditation Agreement has been received by COA on or following June 1, 2007. For all other organisations, this Standards Update is optional.

### Revised Research Note

**Research Note: Guidelines issued by the Chairperson of the Immigration and Refugee Board set out in Section 65(3) of the Immigration Act describe the procedure for ensuring the protection of the child and the legal processes involved in addressing the refugee claim of the child. A key element of service provision is to ensure that the name of the child and any other relevant information should be given to the provincial authorities responsible for child protection issues, if this has not already been done by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC).**

Research Note: A review of consistent themes in a decade of research in the psychological well being of children and adolescent refugee and asylum seekers suggests the importance of trauma assessment to determine the effects of pre-migration exposure to trauma, particularly for those with extended trauma experience, unaccompanied or separated children and youth, and those whose status is uncertain. Factors identified repeatedly as mediating psychological health that are important to assess, include: family cohesion, family support, and parent psychological health; individual factors, including adaptability, temperament and self-esteem; and peer and community support.



## Original Research Note

~~Research Note: A paper describing overall child welfare service system response to unaccompanied minors notes that while policies for these minors can be similar in some respects from state to state, implementation of policy at the programme level takes many forms and much work remains to evaluate the effectiveness of different approaches, such as, what geographic location and type of family best supports socialization and frequent visitation. Essential positive practices noted include development of social networks and support to maintain ethnic identity in a multi-cultural society.~~

~~Research Note: Results of a well designed study using aggregate level U.S. census data found that economic status of childhood refugee arrivals differs by refugee group. The study encourages further analysis to understand individual and family factors that contribute to successful adaptation, and compliments research on factors that predispose refugee children to assimilate into U.S. born peer groups.~~

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~~Research Note: Results of a recent extensive quantitative and qualitative review of how children seeking asylum enter the U.S. federal service and legal system, and how those systems respond to unaccompanied children seeking asylum, offer conclusions about the need for a humane, coordinated response. The report also offers numerous policy and practice recommendations seeking to balance current immigration enforcement, and child protection and family reunification interests.~~