ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
330 C Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201 | www.acf.hhs.gov

FOIA #21-F-0005

October 9, 2020

VIA EMAIL
foia@americanoversight.org

Dear Hart Wood:

This is in response to your enclosed October 5, 2020, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). You requested any records reflecting any directive, order, decision, protocols, or guidance regarding the deportation or removal of unaccompanied minors.This includes but is not limited to any directive, order, decision, protocols, or guidance which addresses the following issues:

i. Whether these minors have any family residing within the United States who could serve as guardians or sponsors
ii. Whether these minors will receive any food, medical treatment, or shelter before their deportation or removal
iii. Whether these minors will have the opportunity to make an asylum claim before their deportation or removal
iv. Whether these minors have a safe place to be sent outside of the United States

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has advised they do not play a role in the apprehension, determination, or removal of children. That is under the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) purview. ORR has also advised, no one in the UAC Program contributed to any directives, orders, decisions, protocols, and/or guidance addressed in your request. Similarly, DHS does not share any info on children or removal of children who are not designated as UAC, thus requiring referral to ACF/ORR. Therefore, ACF/ORR does not have records responsive to your request.

ACF is referring your request to DHS. They may maintain the information you are seeking. You can contact them directly regarding your request at:

Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
STOP-0655
Washington, DC 20528
foia@hq.dhs.gov

You have the right to appeal this determination. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under FOIA and give the agency a chance to review and reconsider your request and the agency's decision.

Your appeal must be mailed within 90 days from the date of this response, to:

Mark Weber
Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Room 729H
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Please clearly mark both the envelope and your letter "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

If you would like to discuss our response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, please contact FOIA@acf.hhs.gov.You may also contact the HHS ACF FOIA Public Liaison for assistance at:

Kenneth Wolfe
FOIA Public Liaison
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Communications, Room 4002A
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

If you are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through our FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road–OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Telephone: 202-741-5770
Toll-Free: 1-877-684-6448
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Fax: 202-741-5769

Sincerely yours,

Carla C. Smith -S
Digitally signed by Carla C. Smith -S
Date: 2020.10.09 12:12:44 -04'00'

Celeste Smith
Director
Office of Communications
Freedom of Information Office
Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families