



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Advocates for Human Rights Opposes Proposed Regulations that would Detain Migrant Children Indefinitely

Minneapolis, MIN (August 22, 2019) The Trump administration proposed new regulations on Wednesday that would allow the government to detain migrant families and children indefinitely. The Advocates for Human Rights asks the federal judge overseeing the Flores Agreement to reject these proposed punitive regulations. If the rules are approved, The Advocates will join immigrant advocates around the country to prevent their implementation.

“We know from the experiences of our clients and extensive research that detention harms children,” said Robin Phillips, Executive Director of The Advocates for Human Rights. “Rules that would lengthen the time immigrant children might spend in detention are unconscionable. They disregard known harm in favor of the administration’s own anti-immigrant agenda. These proposed new rules must be rejected.”

The proposed regulations would replace the Flores Agreement, a court-ordered consent agreement that governs the government’s ability to detain migrant children. The Flores Agreement, in effect since 1997, arose out of a class action lawsuit and held that children held in detention for extended periods of time suffered physical and emotional harm. It and subsequent court decisions have set the criteria for the treatment and release of immigrant children in custody, generally requiring children to be held in the least restrictive setting and released within twenty days.

The proposed new regulations would remove the protections established in the Flores Agreement. They disregard the great body of evidence, established in the Flores case and repeatedly confirmed, that detention harms children. This Administration’s demonstrated failure to provide adequate living conditions for the children they are holding magnifies that harm.

Under the terms of the Flores Agreement, a federal judge overseeing the settlement must approve the new regulations. If she does not, the Trump Administration is expected to appeal.

The Advocates will work for the human rights of all and continue to represent, protect, and uplift refugees and immigrants in our community until every child lives in peace, justice, equality and dignity.

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About The Advocates for Human Rights

Envisioning a world in which every person lives with dignity, freedom, justice, equality, and peace, The Advocates for Human Rights works to change systems and conditions that cause human rights abuses. The Advocates investigates and exposes human rights violations; represents people seeking asylum; trains and assists human rights defenders; and develops partnerships and mobilizes volunteers to address some of the most pressing issues of our time. www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.