



Child Welfare, Family Court, and other Domestic Relations Cases: How the SPPU Parental Interests Team Can Assist ERO Field Offices

Obtaining information from state child welfare courts, family law and domestic courts, and Child Protective Service (CPS) agencies in relation to detained parents can be a challenge due to confidentiality restrictions and other state laws. The Special Populations and Programs Unit (SPPU) Parental Interest Team (PI Team) is available to assist ERO field offices in cases involving detained parents with Child Welfare, Family Court, and other Domestic Relations cases.

Here's how the PI Team assists:



Detained Parent with a Child Welfare, Family Law, or Related Proceeding

The PI Team assists with determining the jurisdiction of the case; obtaining court orders and other documents, such as hearing notices (for inclusion in the A-file and to facilitate participation); finding out the dates, times, and locations of upcoming hearings; obtaining information about methods by which a detained parent can participate in hearings (e.g. telephonic or video) when in-person appearance is not possible and making such arrangements.



Verifying Dependency or Family Court Attorney Representation of Detained Parent

The PI Team assists with obtaining proof of representation of a detained parent by attorneys in child welfare or family law proceedings. **NOTE:** These attorneys will not have G-28s because they are not immigration attorneys. Examples of proof of representation may include:

- Letter or Notice of Appointment (dependency cases)
- Court orders or other filings that list the attorney as the representative of the detained parent (dependency or family law cases)



Detained Parent Requests Reunification Before Removal & Detainee Has CPS Involvement, A History Involving Domestic Abuse, or Crimes Against Minors

The PI Team can investigate to determine whether:

- The detainee's parental rights have been terminated or limited with respect to the minor child(ren),
- There are any civil protection orders, and
- CPS or child welfare courts have made any determinations regarding the reunification of a child or any temporary suspension of contact or physical custody of the child.
- There is a possibility that the child welfare case may be dismissed and the family can be reunified prior to removal.

NOTE: Child welfare proceedings are separate from immigration removal proceedings; however, in cases where a parent is requesting reunification with their child(ren) under CPS supervision or in CPS custody you should consult with the SPPU PI Team and OPLA prior to removal.



Detained Parent Alleges Abuse or Neglect of a Minor who is in the U.S.

The PI Team can talk through the allegation with you and make a recommendation regarding whether a report should be made to CPS or other law enforcement authority and what additional information may be needed. The PI Team can assist with information on making a mandated report to CPS state authorities. State CPS contact information is also available on the ERO Parental Interests Resource Center.

Additional Information



Contact the PI Team **(b)(7)(E)** @ice.dhs.gov



Resources are available on inSight at the [ERO Parental Interests Resource Center](#)