

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES FOR MARYLAND YOUTH IN CARE

*ISS-USA in partnership with
Maryland Department of Human Services/Social Service Administration (DHS/SSA)*



WHO IS ISS-USA

- International Social Service – USA Branch (ISS-USA) is part of a global social work network spanning 130+ countries, and a trusted partner to Maryland DHS/SSA
- ISS supports MD DHS/SSA by helping resolve *cross-border challenges* that affect child safety, permanency, and family stability.
 - this includes providing children with fully funded immigration legal representation

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our goal is to ensure that every child in foster care who may qualify for immigration relief is identified, screened for eligibility, and connected with appropriate legal services.

Foster parents and others who routinely interact with children in care play a critical role in identifying youth who may need immigration assistance.

To help ensure that all eligible children are screened, **if you become aware of a child in foster care who was born outside the United States, please contact the ISS-USA Legal Services Coordinator** or consult with the child's social worker about submitting an ISS-USA referral so the child can be screened for immigration relief. Once a referral is received and the child is screened by ISS, we may assign an immigration attorney in our network to take on the child's immigration case at no cost to the child or local department of social service.



IDENTIFYING YOUTH FOR IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES



Was the child **born outside of the United States?**

YES → **Refer** to immigration legal services immediately

Other signs a child may need immigration legal assistance:

- Child has experienced abuse, trafficking, or serious harm
- Child has immigration paperwork but doesn't understand it
- Parent has been detained or deported
- Child fears returning to their home country

WHAT SERVICES DOES ISS-USA PROVIDE?

Legal Service Coordination

- Screening for immigration legal needs
- Guidance and resource sharing
- Fully funded attorney placement

Social Services

- Document tracing (birth certificate, death certificate, passport, etc.)
- International home study
- Reunification abroad



Program questions? Reach out to Ali Williams, ISS-USA Legal Service Coordinator, at A.M.Williams@iss-usa.org

Need to submit a referral for ISS-USA legal or social services? Email iss.liaison@maryland.gov