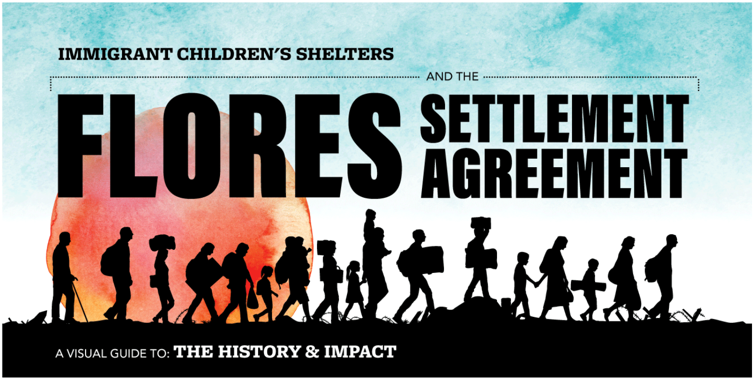
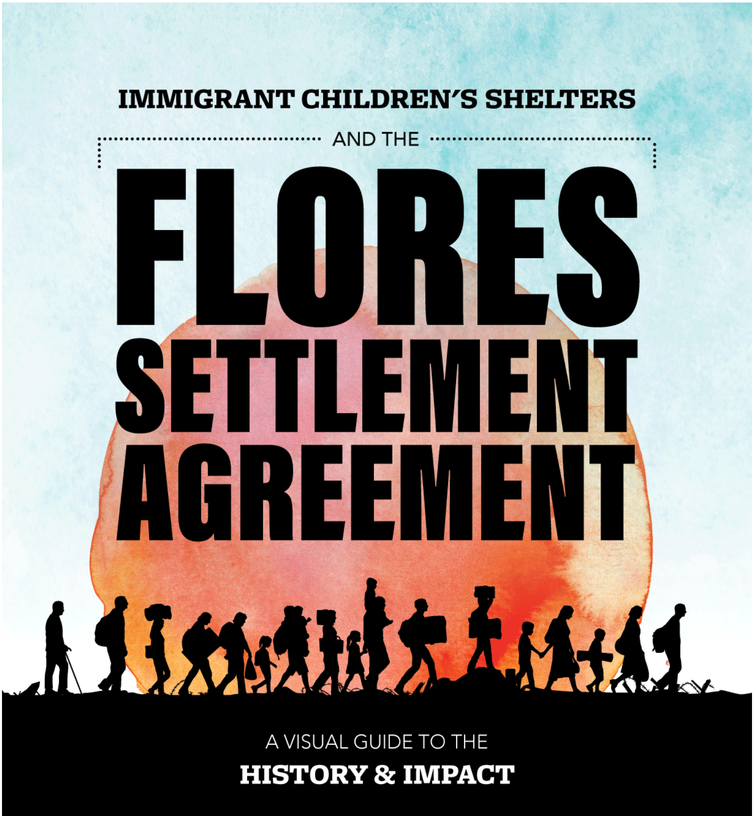

IMMIGRANT CHILDREN'S SHELTERS
AND THE
FLORES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
A VISUAL GUIDE TO: THE HISTORY & IMPACT

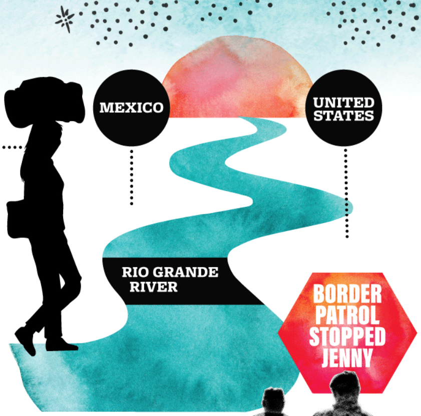
THE FLORES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT – A VISUAL GUIDE

by adminadmin | Immigrant Stories, Shelters | October 19, 2020

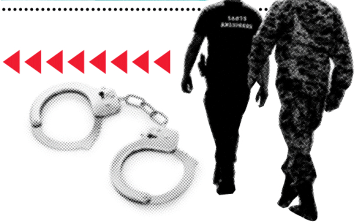


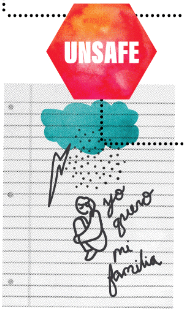
1985

15-year-old **Jenny Flores** was stopped by the border patrol while crossing the **United States-Mexico** border on a journey **from El Salvador.**



Jenny was placed in a detention facility **with adults** where she was subjected to **unsafe conditions.**





At the detention facility, Jenny was:

- **! regularly strip searched,**
- **! forced to share living spaces and bathrooms with adult men, and**
- **! told she could not be released to non-guardian relatives.**

MORE BACKSTORY

INS would only release Jenny to her parents, but if they were undocumented, they'd be arrested when they came to take Jenny home.

Jenny's aunt lived in Los Angeles and visited Jenny in detention. During her visit, Jenny advised her aunt that abuse was occurring at the detention facility.

Jenny's aunt took this information to the authorities and requested that Jenny be released to her care. Jenny's aunt's request was denied.

CONSEQUENTLY...

Jenny became a **plaintiff** in a...

CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT

IN JENNY'S LAWSUIT, SHE TOLD THE COURT THAT SHE AND OTHER KIDS LIKE HER WERE HELD FOR TOO LONG IN CONDITIONS THAT WERE NOT GOOD FOR KIDS.

NOTE: In a class action lawsuit, one or more people sue on behalf of a larger group of people with a similar injuries caused by the same defendant.

AFTER YEARS OF LITIGATING INTHE LOWER COURTS AND THE SUPREME COURTS, JENNY FLORES' CASE WAS SETTLED.

1997

The Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CHRCL) and the federal government signed the **Flores v. Reno Settlement Agreement**

THE CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

AND THE

UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

SIGNED

commonly known as the

FLORES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

LEARN MORE HERE

WHICH PROTECTS THE RIGHTS OF

UNACCOMPANIED IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

(AGES 1-17)

FSA

The FSA established **terms & guidelines** for the treatment of minors in the immigration system.

SHELTER

IMMIGRANT CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

were created in response to the FSA.

WHAT WILL THIS BE LIKE?

FEDERAL

STATE

LOCAL

Licensing & Regulatory Officials help ensure every child is treated with...

dignity & respect

by ensuring the shelter programs meet the terms of the Flores Settlement Agreement (FSA).

THE FSA TERMS

Before the shelter: Youth may not be detained by federal immigration authorities for more than 72 hours, or detained with unrelated adults for more than 24 hours. After this time, **children must be sent to a safe, state licensed shelter** that is regulated by federal and local authorities

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE SHELTERS?

Youth, minors & children are considered **ages 0-17 years.**

PHYSICAL CARE

Each child must receive routine medical and dental care, immunizations and medications, food, clothing and grooming items to ensure physical care.

INDIVIDUAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Youth are assessed and accommodations are made for individual needs, special translations and placement of religious preferences.

EDUCATION AND RECREATION

Every child receives an educational assessment and plan, educational and communication skills services, physical recreation, leisure time and English language training.

COUNSEL

All youth have access to legal counsel, social workers, behavioral counseling sessions and assessments for identifying immediate family members in the U.S.

BASIC INDIVIDUAL CARE

Children must be permitted to contact approved family or sponsors. They must be held in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their age and special needs.

UNIFICATION

Youth must be released without unnecessary delay into the care of parents, legal guardians, close relatives, DHS-designated sponsors or a licensed childcare facility.

STATE

State licensing authorities ensure that shelters comply with all applicable child welfare laws and regulations as well as state & local building, fire, health and safety codes.