

# Were You Separated from a Family Member?

To locate your family member, you will need the following: Full name of family member, date of birth, country of origin and their 9-digit identification number (“A number”)

## If they are a minor (under 18 years of age):

### Where is my family member?

Currently, it is illegal to separate a biological parent from their child unless there exist certain circumstances to do so, this includes a criminal record. If you are not the biological parent of the child, it is likely you and the child have been separated. Immigration agencies detain minors in shelters for children of 18 years of age and under. In these shelters, minors should have access to education, medical services, legal orientation, food and resources for their basic needs. It is possible for minors to be released from these shelters and live with family members or friends in the United States. As long as those individuals are willing to go through the sponsorship process and are approved by the U.S. government for said responsibility.

### How can I contact my family member?

Families can use these telephone numbers to acquire information about a relative that is under 18 years of age.

**Option 1: Dial 1-888-351-4024 (DRIL)**

**Option 2: Dial 1-800-203-7001 (ORR)**

**Option 3: E-mail [information@orncc.com](mailto:information@orncc.com)<sup>1</sup>**

It is possible that only the minor’s biological parents may be able to contact them. If that is the case, share this information with the minor’s biological parents so they may contact them.

## If they are an adult (over 18 years of age):

### Where is my family member?

If they entered without inspection (through the desert, jumped the fence, etc. and were processed by officers dressed in green uniforms), it is possible that your family member will be accused and criminally processed before beginning their immigration proceedings. Criminal proceedings can last weeks or months depending on various factors, including if your family member has been criminally processed for entering without permission previously. During the criminal process, it is likely that your family member will be in prison under federal police custody before being transferred to an immigration detention center.

If your family member entered without inspection, it is also possible that they were not criminally processed and is currently in an immigration detention center waiting to begin their immigration process or they remain under Border Patrol custody waiting to be transferred to a detention center to begin their immigration process.

If they presented themselves at the border to ask for asylum (they were processed at a port of entry with officials dressed in blue) it is possible that your family member is at an immigration detention center waiting to begin their immigration process.

### How can I contact my family member?

If you are not sure if your family member is being criminally processed, you can verify if they are under federal criminal custody.

**Option 1: Detained in Federal Custody**

<https://www.bop.gov/inmateloc/>

If your family member is still detained under Border Patrol custody you will not be able to contact your family member until they are transferred to an immigration detention center. Once they have been transferred to a detention center, you may do the following:

**Option 2: Immigration Detainee Locator**

Use the following link to find a family member in a detention center.

<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/index>

**Option 3: Dial 1-619-436-0410**

Additionally, you can contact the ICE Regional Office of San Diego. If there is no registry of the individual at this office, this means they do not have registry of the person detained. Generally, this means that the individual detained has not yet entered their database.

<sup>1</sup> See attached examples

Comuníquese con la ACLU de los condados de San Diego e Imperial si ha sido separado de un miembro de su familia cuya solicitud de asilo está relacionada con la suya al 619-232-2121 x 469 o 619-232-2121 x 380.