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12	UNITED STAT	TES DISTRICT COURT
13	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
14	WESTERN DIVISION	
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16	JENNY LISETTE FLORES, et al.,	Case No. CV 85-4544-DMG-AGRx
17	Plaintiffs,	PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO JUVENILE
18	V.	COORDINATORS' INTERIM REPORTS
19		Hearing: December 4, 2020
20	WILLIAM BARR, Attorney General of the United States, <i>et al.</i> ,	11:00 AM
21		[Hon. Dolly M. Gee]
22	Defendants.	
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## Case 2:85-cv-04544-DMG-AGR Document 1039 Filed 11/23/20 Page 2 of 12 Page ID #:42067

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On September 4, 2020, the Court ordered the ICE and ORR Juvenile Coordinators to "maintain records and statistical information on minors held in Title 42 custody pursuant to Paragraph 28A, and . . . monitor compliance with the Agreement with respect to any minors held in Title 42 custody pursuant to Paragraph 29." Order re Plaintiffs' Motion to Enforce Settlement as to "Title 42" Class Members [Doc. # 976] ("Title 42 Order"), at 18.

By order dated October 26, 2020, the Court directed the ICE and ORR Juvenile Coordinators to report regarding, inter alia, "the topics listed in the April 24, 2020 Order [Doc. # 784] and compliance with the Court's order regarding minors held under Title 42 authority [Doc. # 976]." Order re October 23, 2020 Status Conference [Doc. # 1014] ("Oct. 26 Order"), at 3.

The Juvenile Coordinators' Interim Reports fail to supply information sufficient to show that Defendants are complying with the Settlement during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court should order the Coordinators' reports to provide the following information going forward.

1) The Juvenile Coordinators should report the reasons Defendants
detain children in unlicensed CBP facilities for more than 72 hours
pursuant to Title 42 or Title 8.

The Reports fail to provide adequate information regarding Defendants' compliance with the Court's order that "[a]ll minors detained in the legal custody of DHS or ORR pursuant to Title 42 are Class Members as defined by Paragraph 10 of the *Flores* Agreement" and that Defendants must therefore "comply with the Agreement with respect to such minors to the same degree as any other minors held in their custody." Title 42 Order at 17.

ICE's Juvenile Coordinator reports "that ICE has included minors

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The ICE and ORR Juvenile Coordinator Interim Reports ("ICE Report" and "ORR Report") appear in the public record as Documents # 1029-1 and #1029-2, respectively.

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temporarily housed by ICE pursuant to Title 42 authorities over 72 hours pending expulsion in its monthly Paragraph 28A reporting shared with Plaintiffs' counsel since March 2020 . . . " [Doc. # 1029-1] ("ICE Report"), at 8. The report adds that ICE detained 19 class members in hotels for over two days "pending an expulsion flight to their home country under Title 42 authorities." *Id.* These children were then transported back to "U.S. Customs and Border Protection for processing" because the flights were delayed by Hurricane Eta. Id. According to the ICE Report, "[T]hese 19 minors are currently in ORR custody," id., yet the report fails to disclose how long CBP detained these class members or where it detained them before ostensibly transferring them to a licensed placement.<sup>2</sup>

The Title 42 Order applies to DHS, and therefore covers both ICE and CBP. See, e.g., Title 42 Order at 17 ¶ 3 ("Under Paragraph 12.A, if a bed in a licensed facility is immediately available, DHS shall generally make a licensed placement of class members within 72 hours of arrest or apprehension."). Yet the ICE Report says nothing about children whom CBP has detained for more than 72 hours, nor does it disclose the reasons for prolonged placement in unlicensed Border Patrol facilities. If Defendants are detaining class members for extended periods in CBP facilities instead of detaining them in hotels, this places children at no less risk than hotel placement. The evidence Plaintiffs have independently collected warrants the Juvenile Coordinators' reporting on whether this is or may be the case.

According to its ¶ 29 data report, CBP detained 35 children for more than 72 hours during October 2020 alone. Ex. A, Declaration of Melissa Adamson, November 23, 2020 ("Adamson Decl."), at ¶ 6.3 Of these 35, CBP's report

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The ORR Report adds nothing to the ICE Report insofar as children designated for Title 42 expulsion are concerned, stating only that "all minors entering ORR custody have been referred under Title 8 provisions." ORR Report at 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Of these 35 children, ten children were listed as "Y" and 25 children were listed as "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column. Adamson Decl. at ¶ 7.

1	indicates that at least 15 children spent five or more days in unlicensed Border
2	Patrol facilities, including —
3	• A 17-year-old child for approximately 18.3 days (438.87 hours)
4	A 6-year-old child for approximately 11.4 days (272.95 hours)
5	A 12-year-old child for approximately 11.4 days (272.95 hours)
6	A 2-year-old held for approximately 11 days (264.87 hours)
7	A 16-year-old held for approximately 8 days (193.00 hours)
8	• A 9-month-old held for approximately 7.4 days (177.50 hours)
9	• An 8-month-old held for approximately 7.2 days (171.90 hours)
10	A 13-year-old held for approximately 7.2 days (171.88 hours)
11	• A 4-year-old held for approximately 7.1 days (170.03 hours)
12	• A 4-year-old held for approximately 6.5 days (156.08 hours)
13	<ul> <li>A 12-year-old held for approximately 6.5 days (156.08 hours)</li> </ul>
14	• A 5-year-old held for approximately 6.1 days (145.55 hours)
15	• A 2-year-old held for approximately 5.7 days (136.40 hours)
16	• A 5-year-old held for approximately 5.3 days (127.52 hours)
17	<ul> <li>An 8-year-old held for approximately 5.3 days (127.52 hours)</li> </ul>
18	<i>Id.</i> at ¶ 9.
19	The available evidence further indicates that CBP's detaining class members
20	for such extended periods is exposing children to an unacceptably high risk of
21	contracting COVID-19.
22	According to class member E.J.L.A., as of November 18, 2020, CBP had
23	detained him at the Weslaco Station for three days. Ex. B, Declaration of E.J.L.A.,
24	November 18, 2020, at ¶¶ 2, 4. He describes conditions at the Weslaco Border
25	Patrol Station as follows:
<ul><li>26</li><li>27</li></ul>	When I got to the Weslaco station, there were many children. I was detained

in a room with thirty other minors and we were cramped. . . . I had to sleep in a sitting position because there were so many people in the room. I met eight other boys who were detained with me who had been detained four days. They have all left the facility. I met a Guatemalan minor who had been detained at the Weslaco station for five days. . . Currently, I am in a room alone and isolated from others. . . . I have been given one disposable face mask and I have to use the same face mask every day. I have not been provided hand sanitizer since my arrival. I have not been provided gloves. I do not have access to soap for handwashing. Another child asked for soap and he was told no. . . . There is no social distancing here. When we are in line for showers and food, we are not spaced six feet apart. We stand right next to each other.

Id. at  $\P$  7.

Another Weslaco detainee is 13-year-old K.J.M.B.. Ex. C, Declaration of K.J.M.B., November 18, 2020, at ¶ 2. As of November 18, 2020, Defendants had detained him at Weslaco for four days. Id. at ¶ 4. He corroborates key elements of E.J.L.A.'s account: "I sleep on a cushion on the floor. I have a thin nylon blanket that I use to sleep. I do not have soap to wash my hands. I have not been given hand sanitizer. I do not get my temperature checked regularly. I have not received a face mask. I am wearing the cloth mask that I arrived to the United States with." *Id.* at  $\P$  8 (emphasis added).

Class member M.N.A.G. is eight years old. Ex. D, Declaration of M.N.A.G., November 18, 2020, at ¶ 2. He reports having arrived with his ill mother, whom Defendants transferred separately to an unknown location, leaving they young boy alone at the Weslaco Station. *Id.* at  $\P$  3. He declares:

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My mom is somewhere else. I think she is in the hospital because her back hurts. I have not been able to talk to her because she is sick. They told me that I cannot leave until she gets here. . . . I have been detained at this facility for 2 days. I have been told . . . I have to wait here until my mother gets out of the hospital. I have not been told when she will get out. I have not been told how long I will have to wait at the facility. One boy had to wait five days. I do not remember his name. He told me he had been here five days. Id. at ¶¶ 3-5.

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M.N.A.G., too, reports experiencing substandard and dangerous conditions at the Weslaco Station:

I am alone in my room. I do not know why I am alone. It makes me feel abandoned. I feel very alone. I have been completely alone for an entire day. . . . It is very cold. It is always very cold. I get water often. When I want to wash my hands, there is only water. There is no soap. I do not know why there is no soap. I received one disposable mask when I arrived to Weslaco station and I have had the same mask since then. I have not received a new mask. My mask is dirty on the inside. Here, people do not practice social distancing. Social distancing is when people do not get too close so that they are not get sick from COVID. When we are in line, we sit or stand close together. I think many people here will get sick from COVID. That makes me feel scared.

Id. at  $\P 7.4$ 

Defendants' have steadfastly refused to disclose the reasons they detain children for prolonged periods in unlicensed Border Patrol facilities.<sup>5</sup> On October 13, 2020, Plaintiffs advised Defendants that CBP's "August [2020] dataset reports 23 children held for over 72 hours in CBP facilities, eight of whom it appears were detained for over a week in such facilities." Ex. F, Declaration of Carlos Holguín,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> On November 18, 2020, Plaintiffs conducted a monitoring visit of the Weslaco Border Patrol Station. Ex. E, Declaration of Denise Rosales, November 21, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Settlement ¶ 28A provides: "The INS, through the Juvenile Coordinator, shall also collect information regarding the reasons for every placement of a minor in a detention facility or medium security facility." Settlement ¶ 29 provides: "[T]he INS shall provide to Plaintiffs' counsel the information collected pursuant to Paragraph 28, as permitted by law, and each INS policy or instruction issued to INS employees regarding the implementation of this Agreement."

Border Patrol facilities are indisputably "detention facilities," and, even absent a pandemic, Defendants should disclose the reasons they detain children in these facilities. The case for transparency is all the more compelling now. Defendants' keeping children for extended periods of time in Border Patrol facilities instead of hotels is not consistent with the Court's Title 42 Order and protracting children's detention in such facilities is no less dangerous than detaining them in hotels.

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November 23, 2020 ("Holguín Decl."), Attachment 1. Plaintiffs requested that Defendants "disclose the reasons for children's extended stays in CBP facilities . . ." *Id.* Plaintiffs explained the requested information would allow them to monitor whether Defendants are detaining class members in CBP facilities whom they would have "hoteled" but for the Title 42 Order. Id. On November 19, the Parties met and conferred, but failed to resolve their differences over CBP's reporting obligations.6

The Court should order the Juvenile Coordinators to report on class members held for longer than 72 hours in Border Patrol stations. It should also order CBP to report its reasons for failing to transfer class members to a licensed placement within 72 hours of taking them into custody pursuant to Settlement ¶¶ 28A and 29.

The Reports should disclose instructions and policies ORR has issued 2) to protect children from COVID-19 in ORR facilities.

The Court's order of April 24, 2020, directs the ORR Juvenile Coordinator to "[i]dentify the location of any ORR facility that has had any individual, whether detainee or staff member, test positive for COVID-19, and provide a status report and census of those infected at that facility during the reporting period." Order re Plaintiffs' Motion to Enforce, April 24, 2020 [Doc. # 784], at 20. It further directs the ORR Juvenile Coordinator to "[d]escribe any policies and/or practices aimed at identifying and protecting minors who are at heightened risk of serious illness or death should they contract COVID-19." Id.

The Court's order of October 26 directs Defendants to "provide their current internal instructions and policies to Plaintiffs' counsel, pursuant to Paragraph 29 of the FSA." Oct. 26 Order at 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The Court's order of October 26, 2020, directs the Parties to meet and confer regarding "provision of information of the reasons for placement of Class Members in a particular detention facility." Oct. 26 Order at 3 ¶ 4.

On October 30, 2020, Plaintiffs emailed Defendants requesting, "pursuant to Settlement ¶ 29 and ¶ 5 of the Court's order of October 26, 2020 [Doc. #1014]," that Defendants "produce all policies and instructions not previously supplied which they have issued to prevent, mitigate, or manage COVID-19 infection in ORR facilities." Holguín Decl., Attachment 2. On November 19, 2020, the Parties met and conferred, but failed to resolve their differences over ORR's obligation to disclose such policies and instructions. Holguín Decl. at ¶ 4.

Although the Court's order of April 24 does not squarely require the ORR

Although the Court's order of April 24 does not squarely require the ORR Juvenile Coordinator to report such policies or instructions, her doing so should now be required to ensure Defendants' compliance with their obligation to ensure that conditions in detention facilities are safe, sanitary, and consistent with a bona fide concern for vulnerable children during the pandemic.<sup>7</sup>

According to the ORR Report, ORR's most recent policies or instructions related to COVID-19 protocols date from approximately four months ago. ORR Report at 6. Given the pandemic's spread, it would be remarkable and disturbing should these now-dated instructions reflect the sum total of ORR's efforts to protect children in its custody from COVID-19, yet Defendants have refused to disclose any more recent guidance, or even to say whether ORR has or has not issued has anything new.

ORR's refusal to disclose its current policies and instructions has predictably sown confusion and hindered legal service providers' ability to advocate for their

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Settlement ¶ 12 provides: "Following arrest, the INS shall hold minors in facilities that are safe and sanitary and that are consistent with the INS's concern for the particular vulnerability of minors." Settlement Exhibit 1 requires ORR facilities to provide children "[p]roper physical care . . ." and "[a]ppropriate routine medical and dental care, family planning services, and emergency health care services . . ."

Settlement ¶ 29 requires Defendants to disclose "each INS policy or instruction issued to INS employees regarding the implementation of this Agreement."

clients. For example, ORR has refused to inform staff at The Door, a legal service provider that represents class members in New York, "if anyone at The Children's Village has tested positive, has been exposed, has exhibited symptoms, or has been denied entry to the site . . . even when our staff are visiting the site in person for client meetings" Ex. G, Declaration of Hannah P. Flamm ("Flamm Decl."), November 23, 2020, at ¶ 6.

ORR's reticence with respect to the health and safety of class members is both inexcusable and potentially dangerous. *See id.* ("To protect our clients' rights and to further the best interests, health, and safety of our clients and our staff, we need to be informed, with our clients' consent, if any of our clients has tested positive, has been exposed, or has developed symptoms of COVID-19."). The Court should order the ORR Juvenile Coordinator to disclose any policies or instructions the agency has issued since July 2020, to mitigate the risks to class members of COVID-19 infection.

3) <u>Prolonged and unexplained detention of class members in "out-of-network" facilities.</u>

The Court's order of April 24 directs the ORR Juvenile Coordinator to report on "[m]easures taken to expedite the release of Class Members to suitable custodians during the COVID-19 health emergency . . .." April 24 Order at 19.

In addition to the many licensed facilities ORR uses to detain class members, the agency places children at a small number of "out-of-network" or "OON" facilities. Among these facilities is the Nexus Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas ("Nexus"). Ex. H, Declaration of Leecia Welch, November 23, 2020 ("Welch Decl."), at ¶ 2. The ORR Report provides no information regarding children detained in OON facilities, which is especially problematic considering the children ORR dispatches to OON facilities are among the most vulnerable children in its custody. *See id.* at ¶ 5.

On November 13, 2020, Plaintiffs' counsel visited the Nexus facility

pursuant to Settlement ¶ 32. *Id* at ¶¶ 2, 6. Counsel there encountered six children whom ORR had placed at Nexus, including four children who had been detained at Nexus for six months or longer, and one child who had been detained there for over a year. *Id*. at ¶¶ 3, 12, 15-17.8 Two of the class members currently placed at Nexus described their experiences at the facility in sworn declarations. *See* Exhibits I and J.

Disturbingly, one day prior to her visit, ORR provided Plaintiffs' counsel

with a roster of class members detained at Nexus that indicated the agency had only three children there. Welch Decl. at ¶¶ 3-4. This was inaccurate. *Id.* ¶ 3. On November 16, 2020, Plaintiffs emailed Defendants requesting information regarding Defendants' failure to report all children placed in its out-of-network facilities. Holguín Decl., Attachment 2. Plaintiffs met and conferred with Defendants on November 19, 2020 regarding this issue but have not yet received an explanation for this inaccurate reporting. Welch Decl., at ¶ 5.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> As best as counsel could determine, ORR was providing these children little or no education over the course of such protracted stays and several children appeared to be overmedicated. *Id.* at  $\P$  9-11, 14.

1 The ORR Report should disclose the reasons for children's protracted 2 detention at Nexus and explain why half of the children ORR has placed at Nexus 3 fail to appear in the agency's  $\P$  29 reports. 4 Dated: November 23, 2020. CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND 5 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW Carlos R. Holguín 6 Peter A. Schey 7 NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW 8 Leecia Welch 9 Neha Desai Poonam Juneja 10 Freya Pitts 11 Melissa Adamson Mishan Wroe 12 13 /s/ Carlos Holguín 14 Carlos Holguín One of the Attorneys for Plaintiffs 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

# Exhibit A

1 2 3 4 5 6 7	CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CONSTITUTE Carlos R. Holguín (Cal. Bar No. 90754) 256 South Occidental Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90057 Telephone: (213) 388-8693 Email: crholguin@centerforhumanrights.c NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW Leecia Welch (Cal. Bar No. 208741) Neha Desai (Cal. RLSA No. 803161)		
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22	WILLIAM BARR, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF	DECLARATION OF MELISSA ADAMSON	
23	THE UNITED STATES, ET AL.,		
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25	DEFENDANTS.		
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1. I am an attorney at the National Center for Youth Law and I represent Plaintiffs in the above-titled action. I execute this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Response to Juvenile Coordinators' Interim Reports.

This declaration is based on my personal knowledge, except as to those

Pursuant to ¶¶ 28 and 29 of the Flores Settlement Agreement, the

Services ("HHS") provide class counsel with monthly statistical reports on class

members in its custody. DHS provides reports from Immigration and Customs

Enforcement ("ICE") and Customs and Border Protection ("CBP").

Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") and the Department of Health and Human

The monthly DHS CBP report ("CBP report") lists children that were

detained for more than 72 hours in CBP custody (excluding transfers to Enforcement

member's "Alien Number," "APP/Inadmissible Date," "Sector/Field Office," "Subject

Name," "Date of Birth," "Country of Birth," "Most Recent Book Out Date," "Most

Recent Book Out Location," "Demographic," "T42 (Y/N)," "Time in Custody (TIC)

and Removal Operations ("ERO") or HHS). The CBP report provides each class

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matters based on information and belief, which I believe to be true. If called to testify in this case, I would testify competently about these facts.

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### October 2020

Hours," and "Component."

- 5. The October CBP report covers the time period from October 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020.
- 6. The October CBP report lists 35 children in total, each of whom were detained for longer than 72 hours in CBP custody.
- 7. Of these 35 children, ten children were listed as "Y" and 25 children were listed as "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.

- 8. Of these 35 children, eight children were listed as "UAC / Single Minors" and 27 children were listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographics" column.
- 9. Of these 35 children, 15 children spent five or more days in CBP custody, including:<sup>1</sup>
- A 17-year-old child for approximately 18.3 days (438.87 hours). Listed as "UAC / Single Minors" in the "Demographic" column and "Y" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 6-year-old for approximately 11.4 days (272.95 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 12-year-old for approximately 11.4 days (272.95 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 2-year-old held for approximately 11 days (264.87 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 16-year-old held for approximately 8 days (193.00 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 9-month-old held for approximately 7.4 days (177.50 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "Y" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- An 8-month-old held for approximately 7.2 days (171.90 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 13-year-old held for approximately 7.2 days (171.88 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 4-year-old held for approximately 7.1 days (170.03 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 4-year-old held for approximately 6.5 days (156.08 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Children's ages were determined based on children's listed "Date of Birth" and "Inadmissible Date."

- A 12-year-old held for approximately 6.5 days (156.08 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 5-year-old held for approximately 6.1 days (145.55 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "Y" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 2-year-old held for approximately 5.7 days (136.40 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 5-year-old held for approximately 5.3 days (127.52 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- An 8-year-old held for approximately 5.3 days (127.52 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.

#### September 2020

- 10. The September CBP report covers the time period from September 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020.
- 11. The September CBP report lists 36 children in total, each of whom were detained for longer than 72 hours in CBP custody.
- 12. Of these 36 children, 5 children were listed as "Y" and 31 children were listed as "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- 13. Of these 35 children, 5 children were listed as "UAC / Single Minors" and 31 children were listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographics" column.
- 14. Of these 35 children, 16 children spent five or more days in CBP custody, including:<sup>2</sup>
- A 1-month-old held for approximately 16.4 days (394.47 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Children's ages were determined based on children's listed "Date of Birth" and "Inadmissible Date."

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- A 3-month-old held for approximately 14.4 days (345.12 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 12-year-old held for approximately 14 days (336.47 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 15-year-old held for approximately 14 days (336.45 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 4-month-old held for approximately 13 days (311.65 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 15-year-old held for approximately 12.9 days (308.97 hours). Listed as "UAC / Single Minors" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 7-year-old held for approximately 7 days (167.90 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 2-year-old held for approximately 6.7 days (160.27 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 6-year-old held for approximately 6.7 days (155.23 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 3-month-old held for approximately 6.4 days (152.98 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 17-year-old held for approximately 6.3 days (151.73 hours). Listed as "UAC / Single Minors" in the "Demographic" column and "Y" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 15-year-old held for approximately 5.9 days (142.62 hours). Listed as "UAC / Single Minors" in the "Demographic" column and "Y" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 17-year-old held for approximately 5.4 days (130.37 hours). Listed as "UAC / Single Minors" in the "Demographic" column and "Y" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 2-year-old held for approximately 5.4 days (129.77 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.

- A 4-month-old held for approximately 5.2 days (124.83 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.
- A 5-month-old held for approximately 5.2 days (124.83 hours). Listed as "Family Unit / Group" in the "Demographic" column and "N" in the "T42 (Y/N)" column.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 23rd day of November, 2020 at San Mateo, California.

Melissa Adamson

Weller Aleeun

### EXHIBIT B

# REDACTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT PROPOSED TO BE FILED UNDER SEAL

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, declare as follows: 1. This declaration is based on my personal knowledge. If called to testify in this case, I would testify competently about these facts. 2. I am 15 years old. I am from El Salvador. My A- number is 3. I was apprehended by Border Patrol agents on or around near Brownsville, Texas. I lived in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico under the Migrant Protection Protocols program. I was forced to cross the border by a drunk Mexican man. He used me as a diversion so that immigration agents would arrest me. I surrendered myself to immigration officials. Immigration officials threw away papers I had, which included my mother and brother's phone numbers. An officer told me that they didn't want people from my country in this country anymore. I told an officer that my right wrist is tender due to an injury and I asked him to please be careful. The officer grabbed my wrist roughly on purpose and caused me extreme pain. Then he put me in the car and he kicked the other man that was arrested with me. I do not know why he kicked this man. When I got to the "Hielera" it was very cold and I was wet. I asked for a blanket and I was told that I could not have one. They would not give me a nylon blanket either. An officer yelled at me in English and I did not understand what he was saying. It was just me and the officer in the room. Another bald man started making fun of me when I told him I wanted to be returned to Mexico. He was laughing at me. I spent three hours in the hielera. Another man mocked me and said the group I would be deported with was coming. I was then put on a bus and I thought I was being taken back to the migrant camp in Matamoros but I was brought to Weslaco, Texas. 4. I have been detained at this facility for 3 days. On Monday, I arrived to the Weslaco station. I was asked if I wanted to make a 5. phone call. I let the officers know that officers at the prior station had thrown away the

contact information I had. I asked the officers if they could please let me call my mom

because they had her phone number. I saw it on their screen when they asked me to

confirm that I was related to my mother and sister. They told me they would not give me her phone number. After that, I was taken to the room where I was being housed. I got a cushion and I sat near the bathroom. I was near another kid and we were playing. Suddenly, I was violently grabbed on the shoulder by an officer. This man was chubby, tall, and he had tan skin. This man's uniform was green. He grabbed my shoulder and he put me in a separate room. If I crossed my legs, he would yell at me. I have pain in my bones due to lack of calcium and nerve pain. I massage my body (arms, legs, and shoulders) due to this pain to try and alleviate it. This officer would yell at me every time I would do this. He would yell in Spanish. He would yell at me at tell me to stop moving. An officer in black came, took my name and then half an hour later I was moved to a room with other minors. There were about thirty minors in this room. I felt crowded because there were so many people in the room. On Tuesday, I was in the crowded room. Around midday, I was moved to an isolated room. I was told this was due to the horse playing with the minor the previous day. I slept the entire day because I was entirely alone. I asked permission to watch a movie with other minors. I was told that I could not. On Wednesday, an officer yelled at me and told me to pick up trash that another minor left behind. It made me feel sad but I am getting used to the officers treating me this way. I do not know what is going to happen next. I have not been told whether I am going to be deported. I am unsure what is happening next. I do not know why I am still detained or when I will be released. I hope that I get to leave this place soon like the other minors that have left.

6. On Tuesday, I was asked if I wanted to go back to my country of origin. I told the officers that I did not want to go back to El Salvador because we were being threatened and I feared returning to El Salvador. On Wednesday, I was told to review the paperwork in front of me and to sign it. The documents were in Spanish. I signed asking to see an immigration judge. I read the documents before I signed them. I somewhat understood what the documents said. I was told I would get a list of free attorneys at a later time.

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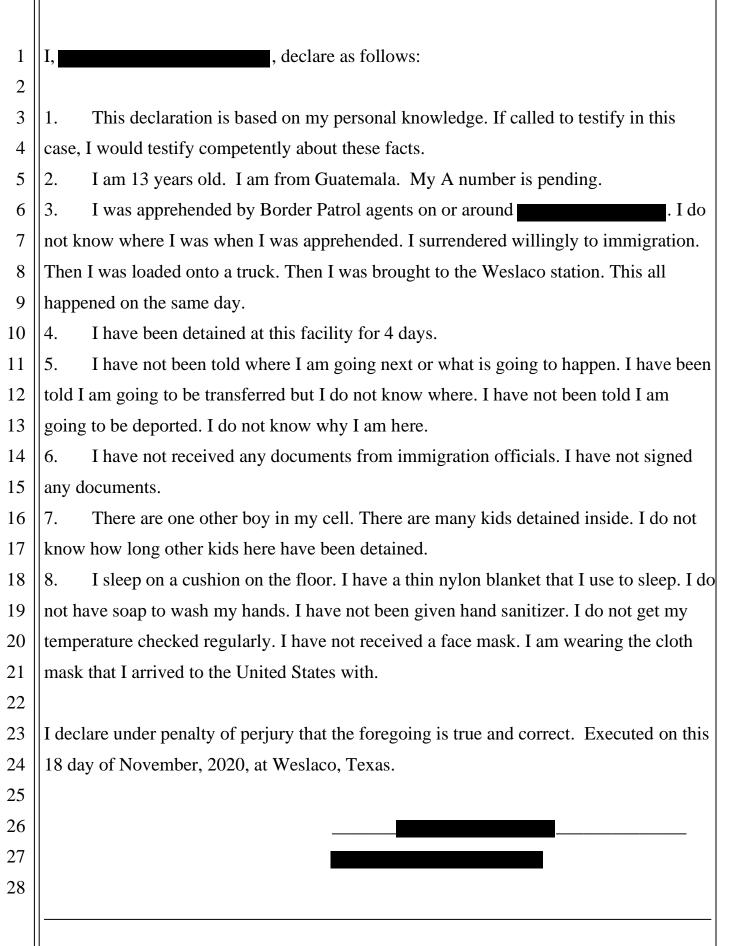
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7. When I got to the Weslaco station, there were many children. I was detained in a room with thirty other minors and we were cramped. I felt uncomfortable because there were so many people in the room. I had to sleep in a sitting position because there were so many people in the room. I met eight other boys who were detained with me who had been detained four days. They have all left the facility. I met a Guatemalan minor who had been detained at the Weslaco station for five days. I do not know why he was detained for so many days. Currently, I am in a room alone and isolated from others. Sometimes the room I am in is cold and other times it is a normal temperature. I have been given one disposable face mask and I have to use the same face mask every day. I have not been provided hand sanitizer since my arrival. I have not been provided gloves. I do not have access to soap for handwashing. Another child asked for soap and he was told no, that he would not be provided with soap. I only have water available for handwashing. I have five minutes every day to shower. There is no social distancing here. When we are in line for showers and food, we are not spaced six feet apart. We stand right next to each other. At night, I sleep on a cushion on the floor and I have a nylon blanket. There is a water jug that we can drink water out of freely but it tastes heavily like bleach. We are only given bottled water during meal times and that is when I drink water. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 18th day of November, 2020, at Weslaco, Texas.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION My name is Denise Adriana Rosales and I swear that I am fluent in both the English and Spanish languages and I translated the foregoing declaration from English to Spanish to the best of my abilities. Dated: November 18, 2020 Denise Adriana Rosales 

### EXHIBIT C

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3		CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION		
4	My name	My name is Denise Adriana Rosales and I swear that I am fluent in both the English and		
5	Spanish 1	anguages and I translated the	foregoing declaration from English to Spanish to	
6	the best o	of my abilities.		
7				
8	Dated:	November 18, 2020	Serisefferal ?	
9			Denise Adriana Rosales	
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### EXHIBIT D

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, declare as follows: This declaration is based on my personal knowledge. If called to testify in this 1. case, I would testify competently about these facts. 2. I am 8 years old. I am from Guatemala. My A- number is pending. My FMU/G# is I was apprehended by Border Patrol agents on or around 3. . I do not know where I crossed the border. The day I was apprehended, I surrounded willingly to border patrol along with my mother. There was a man and woman who arrested us. The man was nice. The woman was mean to my mom. She yelled "hurry up and get in" when they were loading us to a vehicle. My mom was sick and she could barely walk. Then we went down some stairs and we were separated. I got on a bus and my mom got in an ambulance. I was loaded onto a bus with other people. I was the only child on the bus. I was brought to the Weslaco station. My mom is somewhere else. I think she is in the hospital because her back hurts. I have not been able to talk to her because she is sick. They told me that I cannot leave until she gets here. That is what an officer with a green shirt told me. The officer told me I would have to wait at the Weslaco station for her. 4. I have been detained at this facility for 2 days. 5. I have been told I am here because I have to wait here until my mother gets out of the hospital. I have not been told when she will get out. I have not been told how long I will have to wait at the facility. One boy had to wait five days. I do not remember his name. He told me he had been here five days. 6. I have not received documents from here. 7. I am alone in my room. I do not know why I am alone. It makes me feel abandoned. I feel very alone. I have been completely alone for an entire day. I am sleeping on a cushion that is on the floor. I do not have a pillow but I do have a think silver nylon blanket. I use my coat as a pillow. I am the only one in the room when I sleep. It is very cold. It is always very cold. I get water often. When I want to wash my

1	hands, there is only water. There is no soap. I do not know why there is no soap. I	
2	received one disposable mask when I arrived to Weslaco station and I have had the same	
3	mask since then. I have not received a new mask. My mask is dirty on the inside. Here,	
4	people do not practice social distancing. Social distancing is when people do not get too	
5	close so that they are not get sick from COVID. When we are in line, we sit or stand	
6	close together. When I see other children in their cells, some are very close to each other.	
7	I think many people here will get sick from COVID. That makes me feel scared.	
8	Sometimes, there are kids without masks on. Today I saw a soldier that did not have a	
9	mask on. He had it on top of his head. I am afraid I will get COVID.	
10		
11	I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this	
12	18th day of November, 2020, at Weslaco, Texas.	
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19	CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION	
20	My name is Denise Adriana Rosales and I swear that I am fluent in both the English and	
21	Spanish languages and I translated the foregoing declaration from English to Spanish to	
22	the best of my abilities.	
23		
24	Dated: November 18, 2020	
25	Denise Adriana Rosales	
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# Exhibit E

I, Denise A. Rosales, declare as follows:

- 1. This declaration is based on my personal knowledge. If called to testify in this case, I would testify competently about these facts.
- 2. I am an attorney with Texas State Bar Number 24116992.
- 6 3. On Wednesday November 18, 2020, I served as a volunteer *Flores* monitor at the Customs Border Patrol ("CBP") substation at Weslaco, Texas. I interviewed various unaccompanied minors.
  - 4. The interviews took place outdoors next to a portable room shower station and a driveway where white vans would pick up and drop off migrants. This is also where CBP processed newly arrived migrants. I asked for a private meeting room and was told this was not possible.
  - 5. I arrived at the facility at 9:00 a.m. and I began conducting interviews shortly thereafter. When I arrived at my interview table, about 20 feet from me, there was a bench that had approximately fifteen children seated closely beside each other while they waited for their turn for a shower. They appeared to be minors. There was no effort to ensure the children were six-feet-apart. Next, a group of approximately ten female minors came and were seated while it was their turn for a shower. They sat closely together on a bench that was about twelve feet long. I again observed that there was no effort to make sure the children were six-feet-apart.
  - 6. I was escorted through the holding cell area. There was no social distancing between the children or between staff and children.
  - 7. A common complaint from the children I interviewed was the lack of soap for handwashing. Every child I questioned regarding access to soap and hand sanitizer indicated that they did not receive these items. The children indicated that they were given one face mask upon entry. These were thin, surgical, disposable face masks. I asked one child why he was wearing a cloth mask versus a surgical mask like the other minors. He stated that CBP did not give him a surgical mask because he arrived at the

facility with the cloth mask. I interviewed other minors with cloth masks. One child, an eight year old, showed me how dirty his mask was but said he could not get another one.

- 8. Children reported sharing a cell with 16-20 other children. When I asked if there were social distancing measures being taken within the cells, the children told me there were not. Many children reported that they were very cold. During an interview, one child commented on how nice the sun was. She said she had not seen the sun in over two days.
- 9. I asked every child I interviewed whether they were aware if they had been tested for COVID-19. Only one child, a seventeen-year-old Guatemalan national, was able to affirmatively state that he had been tested for COVID-19. He did not know the results of his test. The rest of the minors were unsure if they had been tested. I asked these minors if they had nasal or oral swabs done. They indicated they had oral swabs done but were unsure why they had the oral swabs done and they had not received any results from these swabs.
- 10. I asked children if they knew of other children who had been in the facility for longer periods of time than two to three days. One child indicated that he knew children who had been there four days or longer but that they had left the facility. This child was reported by another minor to have been there the longest and also self-reported to me that he had been there the longest, as of that morning. He indicated that another minor who had been there longer than him had been loaded onto a white van in the early morning. Others that had been there four to five days, had left the days prior.
- 11. I spoke with a Mexican national child who, with tears in his eyes, told me he was going to be deported but he had been waiting two days and had not been removed. He was anxious and unsure of what was to come.
- 12. While I was interviewing the children, many children were being loaded onto vans. They were wearing the collared shirts, jeans, and slip on shoes typical of an Office of Refugee Resettlement ("ORR") shelter uniform. This was happening throughout the

duration of the interviews. Many children on the roll call were transferred before there was an opportunity to interview them. 13. None of the children I spoke with knew what would happen after being processed at the CBP Weslaco substation. Some were under the impression that they were going to be sent directly to their sponsors. None were aware that they were going to be transferred to a shelter under the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. They only knew that at some point they too would be given a change of clothes and would be loaded onto a white bus. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 21st day of November, 2020. Denise A. Rosales 

# Exhibit F

1 2 3 4	CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CONSTITUT Carlos R. Holguín (Cal. Bar No. 90754) 256 South Occidental Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90057 Telephone: (213) 388-8693 Email: crholguin@centerforhumanrights.c		
5	NATIONAL CENTED FOR VOLUELLAW		
6	NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW Leecia Welch (Cal. Bar No. 208741)		
7	Neha Desai (Cal. RLSA No. 803161)		
8	Poonam Juneja (Cal. Bar No. 300848) Freya Pitts (Cal. Bar No. 295878)		
9	Mishan Wroe (Cal. Bar No. 299296)		
10	Melissa Adamson (Cal. Bar No. 319201)		
11	1212 Broadway, Suite 600 Oakland, CA 94612		
12	Telephone: (510) 835-8098		
13	Email: lwelch@youthlaw.org		
14			
15	UNITED STAT	ES DISTRICT COURT	
16	CENTRAL DIST	RICT OF CALIFORNIA	
17	WESTE	ERN DIVISION	
18			
19	JENNY LISETTE FLORES, ET AL.,	No. CV 85-4544-DMG-AGRx	
20	Plaintiffs,		
21	V.		
22		DECLARATION OF CARLOS HOLGUIN	
23	WILLIAM BARR, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, ET AL.,		
24	THE UNITED STATES, ET AL.,		
25	Defendants.		
26	DEFENDAN13.		
27			
28			
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#### **DECLARATION OF CARLOS HOLGUIN**

- I, Carlos Holguín, declare and say as follows:
- 1. I am one of the attorneys for Plaintiffs in the within action.
- 2. Annexed hereto as Attachment 1 is a print out of the Parties' email exchange preceding a meet-and-confer regarding, inter alia, Defendants' disclosing the reasons class members remain in unlicensed CBP detention facilities for 72 hours or more. Apart from the redaction of class members' A numbers, the print out is true and correct.
- 3. Annexed hereto as Attachment 2 is a true and correct print out of the Parties' email exchange preceding a meet-and-confer regarding Defendants' disclosing, inter alia, (1) the reasons class members remain in unlicensed CBP detention facilities for 72 hours or more; and (2) policies and instructions they have issued to prevent, mitigate, or manage COVID-19 infection in ORR facilities. Apart from the redaction of class members' names, A numbers, and dates of birth, the print out is true and correct.
- 4. On November 19, 2020, the Parties met and conferred regarding, inter alia, Defendants' disclosing the reasons class members remain in unlicensed CBP detention facilities for 72 hours or more and policies and instructions they have issued to prevent, mitigate, or manage COVID-19 infection in ORR facilities. Defendants declined to make the required disclosures on much the same rationale as appears in the annexed email exchanges.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 23rd day of November, 2020, at Santa Clarita, California.

Carlos Holguín

## Attachment 1

#### Case 2:85-cv-04544-DMG-AGR Document 1039-6 Filed 11/23/20 Page 5 of 22 Page ID #:42104

From: Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) Sarah.B.Fabian@usdoj.gov

Subject: RE: Data missing from August ¶ 29 reports

Date: October 14, 2020 at 10:22 AM

To: Peter Schey pschey@centerforhumanrights.org, Carlos Holguín crholguín@centerforhumanrights.email

Cc: Silvis, William (CIV) William.Silvis@usdoj.gov, Murley, Nicole (CIV) Nicole.Murley@usdoj.gov, Andrea Sheridan Ordin

aordin@strumwooch.com, Melissa Adamson madamson@youthlaw.org

Notwithstanding Defendants' position that Plaintiffs failed to properly raise this issue, Defendants have looked into the reporting issue related to MVM and have developed a system to resolve it going forward.

Defendants are considering your other request and will respond shortly.

Best, Sarah

Sarah B. Fabian Senior Litigation Counsel Office of Immigration Litigation – District Court Section (202) 532-4824

From: Peter Schey <pschey@centerforhumanrights.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 1:01 PM

To: Carlos Holquín <crholquin@centerforhumanrights.email>

**Cc:** Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) <sfabian@CIV.USDOJ.GOV>; Silvis, William (CIV) <WSilvis@civ.usdoj.gov>; Murley, Nicole (CIV) <NMurley@civ.usdoj.gov>; Andrea Sheridan Ordin <aordin@strumwooch.com>; Melissa Adamson

<madamson@youthlaw.org>

**Subject:** Re: Data missing from August ¶ 29 reports

Sarah, as a follow up to Carlos's email below, as I mentioned in my email of October 8, 2020:

"One other concern we have based on the most recent report is that no information is provided regarding where minors are detained when in the custody or care of NVM Transport."

This issue should be promptly addressed and resolved, as should the issue Plaintiffs have raised since February 2020 that Defendants' reports fail to explain why Class Members are placed in particular facilities.

Peter A. Schey
President
Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law
256 S. Occidental Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90057
(213) 388-8693 x.304 (v)
(323) 251-3223 (direct)
(213) 386.9484 (fax)
<a href="http://www.centerforhumanrights.org">http://www.centerforhumanrights.org</a>

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On Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 9:40 AM Carlos Holguín < <a href="mailto:crholguin@centerforhumanrights.email">crholguin@centerforhumanrights.email</a>> wrote:

Sarah,

First, Defendants' failing to disclose the facilities in which MVM Transport is holding class members was not among the reporting deficiencies that were the subject of the Court's earlier meet-and-confer order. And as you know, that data gained new salience following district court's and the Ninth Circuit's rejecting Defendants' bid to use the pandemic as a pretext to violate the Settlement.

Next, Defendants' failing to identify the facilities in which MVM Transport holds children in its September and subsequent reports would be new violations of the Settlement. The Court's meet-and-confer order no more precludes Plaintiffs from objecting to new violations than it would their objecting to Defendants' refusing to provide ¶ 29 reports going forward at all.

As for DHS's failing to disclose the reasons it detains children in CBP facilities for more than 72 hours, as Mr. Schey's email of October 8 points out, Plaintiffs have have been raising this "since about February that the reports should include the reasons for placement in facilities." In any event, these data, too, have attained greater salience in the wake of Defendants' failed Title 42 program. Plaintiffs are clearly entitled to monitor whether DHS is extending class members' detention in unlicensed CBP facilities in an effort to evade the Court's order enjoining routine "hoteling."

Finally, the Court's meet-and-confer order aims to foster good faith cooperation between the Parties. Your suggesting that the order now shields Defendants against wholly reasonable requests for complete data does palpably violence to the objective and spirit of the Court's directive. If Defendants, in good faith, have some practical reason they cannot comply with Plaintiffs' request, we are more than happy to discuss that with you. Otherwise, Defendants should provide the data without further ado.

Carlos Holguín
General Counsel
Center for Human Rights & Constitutional Law
256 S. Occidental Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90057
213.388-8693 x.309 (v)
(213) 290-1642 (direct)
213.386.9484 (fax)
http://www.centerforhumanrights.org

On Oct 14, 2020, at 7:35 AM, Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) <<u>Sarah.B.Fabian@usdoj.gov</u>> wrote:

Carlos – as you're likely aware, the Court ordered Plaintiffs to meet and confer regarding any remaining data issues related to the monthly reporting in advance of the parties' joint status report that was filed this past Friday. Is there a reason you disregarded the Court's deadline and are only now raising these issues?

Best, Sarah

Sarah B. Fabian Senior Litigation Counsel Office of Immigration Litigation – District Court Section (202) 532-4824

From: Carlos Holguín < <a href="mailto:crholguin@centerforhumanrights.org">crholguin@centerforhumanrights.org</a>>

Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 6:02 PM

**To:** Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) <<u>sfabian@CIV.USDOJ.GOV</u>>; Silvis, William

(CIV) < WSilvis@civ.usdoj.gov>; Murley, Nicole (CIV)

<NMurley@civ.usdoj.gov>

Cc: Peter Schey <pschey@centerforhumanrights.org>; Andrea Sheridan

Ordin <a href="mailto:sarray">aordin@strumwooch.com</a>; Melissa Adamson

<madamson@youthlaw.org>

Subject: Data missing from August ¶ 29 reports

Dear Counsel,

DHS's August ¶ 29 data report lists multiple children detained at "MVM Transport [name of city]" for extended stays.

For example, 14-year-old J.A.C. ( ) was reportedly held at "MVM Transport Phoenix" for 11 days, then "MVN Transportation, SNA" for 2 days, then transferred to a hotel on 8/27 (no book-out date listed); 7-year-old A.F.P.H. ( ) and 15-year-old Y.I.P.H. ( ) were held at "MVN Transportation" for 11 days, then transferred to "Rio Grande Valley Staging" on 8/12/20 (no book-out date listed); and 17-year-old K.A.G. ( ) was held at "MVN Transportation, SNA" for 9 days, then transferred to "Rio Grande Valley Staging" for one day before she was transferred to ORR.

The August report does not disclose the name or type of facility in which these children were housed during MVM Transport custody. We request that data reports disclose the facilities where children are actually housed during MVM Transport custody, as they do with respect to children placed in FRCs,

shelters, RTCs, juvenile halls, and OON facilities.

Additionally, the August dataset reports 23 children held for over 72 hours in CBP facilities, eight of whom it appears were detained for over a week in such facilities. We request the data reports disclose the reasons for children's extended stays in CBP facilities, as ICE is required to do with respect to accompanied class members.

Thank you,

Carlos Holguín
General Counsel
Center for Human Rights & Constitutional Law
256 S. Occidental Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90057
213.388-8693 x.309 (v)
(213) 290-1642 (direct)
213.386.9484 (fax)
<a href="http://www.centerforhumanrights.org">http://www.centerforhumanrights.org</a>

## Attachment 2

#### Case 2:85-cv-04544-DMG-AGR Document 1039-6 Filed 11/23/20 Page 10 of 22 Page ID #:42109

From: Carlos Holguín crholguin@centerforhumanrights.email

Subject: Re: Flores - September Data (HHS and CBP)

Date: November 18, 2020 at 5:32 PM

To: Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) Sarah.B.Fabian@usdoj.gov

Cc: Deane.Dougherty@ice.dhs.gov, Miranda-Maese, Aurora (ACF) (CTR) Aurora.Miranda-maese@acf.hhs.gov,

Andrea Sheridan Ordin aordin@strumwooch.com, Paul H. Wise pwise@stanford.edu, Alex Harten aharten@strumwooch.com, Peter Schey pschey@centerforhumanrights.org, Murley, Nicole (CIV) Nicole.Murley@usdoj.gov, Silvis, William (CIV)

William.Silvis@usdoj.gov, Melissa Adamson madamson@youthlaw.org

Please see answers below.

\_

Carlos Holguín
General Counsel
Center for Human Rights & Constitutional Law
256 S. Occidental Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90057
(213) 388-8693 x.309 (v)
(213) 290-1642 (direct)
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http://www.centerforhumanrights.org

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On Nov 18, 2020, at 10:49 AM, Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) <Sarah.B.Fabian@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Please see my follow up questions in blue below.

Sarah B. Fabian Senior Litigation Counsel Office of Immigration Litigation – District Court Section (202) 532-4824

From: Carlos Holguín < <a href="mailto:crholguin@centerforhumanrights.email">crholguin@centerforhumanrights.email</a>

Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 12:01 PM

To: Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) < sfabian@CIV.USDOJ.GOV >

Cc: Deane.Dougherty@ice.dhs.gov; Miranda-Maese, Aurora (ACF) (CTR)

<a href="mailto:</a> <a href="mailto:Aurora.Miranda-maese@acf.hhs.gov"></a>; Andrea Sheridan Ordin

<aordin@strumwooch.com>; Paul H. Wise <pwise@stanford.edu>; Alex Harten

<a href="mailto:</a> <a href="mailto:strumwooch.com">, Peter Schey <a href="mailto:pschey@centerforhumanrights.org">pschey@centerforhumanrights.org</a>;

Murley, Nicole (CIV) < NMurley@civ.usdoj.gov>; Silvis, William (CIV)

<WSilvis@civ.usdoj.gov>; Melissa Adamson <madamson@youthlaw.org>

**Subject:** Re: Flores - September Data (HHS and CBP)

(205) 825-9165

No access code required.

Please see responses below.

Thank you.

Carlos Holguín
General Counsel
Center for Human Rights & Constitutional Law
256 S. Occidental Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90057
213.388-8693 x.309 (v)
(213) 290-1642 (direct)
213.386.9484 (fax)
http://www.centerforhumanrights.org

On Nov 18, 2020, at 8:02 AM, Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) <<u>Sarah.B.Fabian@usdoj.gov</u>> wrote:

Carlos – my initial responses to your complaints are below. I can meet and confer at 11am ET on Thursday – please circulate a dial-in. Please send me your responses to the below asap so that I can circle back to my clients in advance of our call.

Peter – I do not have time on Thursday to meet about the below as well as the HHS reporting I had discussed with you. I will need to schedule our call on those issues on Monday 11/23 instead, assuming you still want to talk about that issue. If that is the case please let me know your availability to talk about that on Monday.

Best, Sarah

Sarah B. Fabian Senior Litigation Counsel Office of Immigration Litigation – District Court Section (202) 532-4824

From: Carlos Holguín < <a href="mailto:crholguin@centerforhumanrights.email">crholguin@centerforhumanrights.email</a>

Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 6:29 PM

To: Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) < sfabian@CIV.USDOJ.GOV >

Cc: Deane.Dougherty@ice.dhs.gov; Miranda-Maese, Aurora (ACF) (CTR)

<a href="mailto:</a> <a href="mailto:Aurora.Miranda-maese@acf.hhs.gov"></a>; Andrea Sheridan Ordin

<a href="mailto:</a> <a href="mailto://example.com">aordin@strumwooch.com</a>; Paul H. Wise <a href="mailto:pwise@stanford.edu">pwise@stanford.edu</a>; Alex

Harten <aharten@strumwooch.com>; Peter Schey

<pschey@centerforhumanrights.org>; Murley, Nicole (CIV)

< NMurley@civ.usdoj.gov>; Silvis, William (CIV) < WSilvis@civ.usdoj.gov>;

Melissa Adamson < madamson@youthlaw.org >

**Subject:** Re: Flores - September Data (HHS and CBP)

Sarah,

When CBP detains a child in an unlicensed facility longer than 72 hours such detention obviously exceeds custody "immediately following apprehension," and the reasons Defendants are denying the child a licensed placement should be reported. Both ORR and ICE have been reporting this information without objection, and there is no reason CBP should not do the same.

Pursuant to Settlement ¶ 37, Plaintiffs give notice that Defendants are in breach of Settlement by refusing to report their reasons for detaining class members in CBP facilities in lieu of transfer to licensed placement.

This is the third time you have rephrased your request for additional reporting from CBP, but it still is not consistent with the reporting requirement that is actually contained in the Agreement which requires reporting on "the reasons for every placement of a minor in a detention facility or medium security facility." Defendants' offer in that regard remains as stated in my email below.

I do not understand your assertion that ORR and ICE are reporting this information. In fact, what you are seeking appears to be the same information you asked the Court to order ICE and ORR to report to you and the Court declined to order such reporting because she recognized that the Agreement contained no such requirement. In any event, Defendants' position remains that you are asking CBP to report information that is not required by the Agreement and CBP declines to do so.

As stated in my email of Oct. 30, "ICE's reports, though persistently wanting in detail, include a column entitled "Detention Criteria" that supplies at least some explanation for unlicensed placement. CBP's reports should do the same."

As I stated before, the reasons for CBP custody (the "detention criteria") would be limited to noting whether the minor was encountered by Border Patrol or encountered by OFO at a port of entry. CBP is willing to add a column noting those reasons for placement if that would satisfy your concerns. Please confirm if that will resolve this issue for Plaintiffs.

No, it will not.

In addition, ORR is likewise in breach of the Settlement by failing to disclose its reasons for denying class members licensed placement. It, too, should do so.

In accordance with ¶ 37 of the Settlement and Rule 7-3 of the Rules of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, Plaintiffs request that Defendants meet with Plaintiffs telephonically on Thursday, November 19, at whatever hour may be convenient for Defendants, in a good faith effort to settle the aforementioned breach, as well as the following:

 Defendants' failure to produce policies and instructions they have issued to prevent, mitigate, or manage COVID-19 infection in ORR

0 ......

tacilities.

This is not a reporting requirement contained anywhere in the Agreement, and Defendants therefore decline to produce this information.

Plaintiffs disagree insofar as what the Settlement requires is concerned. In any event, Defendants' position directly violates ¶ 5 of the Court's order of October 26, 2020 [Doc. #1014].

Is it your position then that policies related to prevention, mitigation, or management of COVID-19 are in fact policies or instructions "implementing the Agreement"? If so can you please explain the basis for this position? Defendants' position is that such policies would not meet this definition.

Yes, that is Plaintiffs' position, but there is presently no need to explain it: Defendants are under court order to produce the requested information, and they should do so forthwith.

• ICE's producing data reports for March-August, 2020, to disclose the actual placement of children in "MVM Transport."

It is unclear what you are looking for here. The MVM Transport notations in these reports correspond with periods of transport, and location information is otherwise provided. Please clarify what you are claiming is missing from these reports

Defendants did not disclose the actual locations of children in MVM Transport in ICE's September, 2020, reports, yet DHS's "hoteling" policy began with the issuance of the border closure order in March. Plaintiffs require complete and accurate data for March through August, 2020.

I looked at the March through August reports as did ICE, and we believe that the information you are asking for is in those reports. If you are saying that you want something else I am going to need you to give me specific examples from those reports of what you think is missing.

There are numerous instances in the March-August data reports of children held in MVM/MVN custody for extended periods, but their actual locations are undisclosed: e.g., -

children in "MVM Transport" were detained. For example, F.V.L. (

	In the August ICE data report, K.A.G. ( ) is listed as held at "MVN Transportation, SNA" for 9 days (8/2/20-8/11/20), and C.Z.O. ( ) and J.Z.O. ( ) are listed as held at "MVM Transport, El Paso" for 8 days (8/10/20-8/18/20).
	In the July ICE data report, S.V. ( ) and APV ( ) are listed as located at "MVM Transport, San Antonio Proper" for 22 days (6/9/20-7/1/20), and A.M.B. ( ) and F.B. ( ) are listed as located at "MVN Transportation, SNA" for 12 days (7/19/20-7/31/20).
	In the June ICE data report, D.R.C. ( ) is listed as located at "MVN Transportation, SNA" for 7 days (6/10/20-6/17/20), and K.J.D.P. ( ), and A.D.L.C. ( ) are listed as located at "MVM Transport, San Antonio Proper" for 7 days (6/10/20-6/17/20).
	In the May ICE data report, E.B.Q. ( ), O.C.T. ( ), B.F.R. ( ), B.F.R. ( ), C.I.G. ( ), M.J.G.T. ( ), and J.C.T. ( ) are listed as located at "MVN Transportation, SNA" for 3 days (5/15/20-5/18/20).
You ma	ay recall that, at Plaintiffs' insistence. ICE corrected its September data report to disclose the actual locations where

) was initially listed as held at "MVM

Transport, El Paso" for 12 days (8/14/20-8/26/20) in the August ICE Report, but now the September report lists him as held at four hotels during that time period (Chase Ste Hotel Elp (8/14-8/17), Hilton Garden Inn San Antonio Airport (8/17-8/23), Holiday Inn Exp San Antonio (8/23-8/25), and Drury Inn & Stes SNA AP (8/25-8/26)). But that correction covered children included in the September report only.

Defendants have not similarly corrected their earlier data reports listing children at MVN/MVM transportation for extended periods. They should amend these data reports to reflect the locations where children in "MVM Transport" were actual held.

• Defendants' failure to report all children ORR places in out-of-network facilities

ORR is reporting children placed in OON facilities in its monthly reports. Please provide the basis for your claim or explain what you believe is missing from the reports.

The "Out-of-Network" tab in the HHS data reports fails to report children Plaintiffs independently located in at least one out-of-network facility. On November 13, Plaintiffs' counsel visited the Nexus Children's Hospital and there found multiple children who had been detained at Nexus for several months yet were not ben listed in the "Out-of-Network" tab on the HHS data reports for the corresponding period: *e.g.*, —

Jee S S (Local Dob S ) was admitted to ORR on 9/9/19 and transferred to CC Houston LTFC on 7/31/20. He has never been listed in the OON tab as being located at Nexus. According to the Nexus staff, the has been at Nexus for several months.

A S Z C ( , DOB ) was admitted to ORR on 8/23/19 and admitted to the CHSI Los Fresnos Shelter on 8/27/19. She has never been listed in the OON tab as being at Nexus. According to the Nexus staff, has been located at Nexus for "a very long time."

S I N M M ( DOB ) was admitted to ORR on 3/12/20 and initially placed at St. PJ's Shelter. She was transferred to Nexus on 3/21/20 and was listed at Nexus in the OON tab for April, May, June, and July. However, in the August report (captured Sept. 9) and September report (captured Oct. 9), S was listed at SWK Casa Houston in the Census tab and no longer at Nexus Children's Hospital on the OON tab. S reported having been detained continuously at Nexus for about seven months.

ORR is looking into these cases to see if they should have been reported, and if so, why they were not reported. If there was an error in the reporting then ORR will supplement. What else are you asking Defendants to do?

Defendants need to explain why these children were not included in prior OON reports, confirm that no other children are currently or have been detained in OON facilities, and provide corrected data reports disclosing accurate data for each child placed in a OON facility.

• Defendants' failure to produce quality-checked data for September 2020

Defendants have provided final reporting for September 2020 in all respects except for the ICE report which was produced subject to the disclaimer

included in my email. As stated in the email, as soon as the work that is being conducted on ICE's database is completed, if there are any changes to the spreadsheets then ICE will provide those to you. Please clarify what else it is you are asking Defendants to do.

Your earlier email from today resolved this issue. Thank you.

Defendants should end their delay and produce final reports.

As stated, ICE will produce final reports when they are able to run them from the database. If there are specific portions of the existing reports about which you have questions or need more information please let me know. Otherwise there is nothing more that Defendants can do regarding your request.

Thank you.

Carlos Holguín
General Counsel
Center for Human Rights & Constitutional Law
256 S. Occidental Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90057
213.388-8693 x.309 (v)
(213) 290-1642 (direct)
213.386.9484 (fax)
http://www.centerforhumanrights.org

On Nov 3, 2020, at 10:36 AM, Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) < Sarah.B.Fabian@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Carlos – I have asked for an update on the ICE reporting.

Regarding your request for additional CBP reporting,
Defendants ask that you clarify your statement—with which
Defendants disagree—that there is not a functional difference
between "the reasons for placement" and "the reasons class
members spend more than 72 hours in Border Patrol facilities."
The former is the requirement that is contained in the
Agreement, and the latter appears nowhere in the Agreement
and contemplates an entirely different set of information.
Therefore it is difficult to see how there is no functional
difference between the two requests.

In any event, the requirement for Defendants to collect and report "the reasons for every placement of a minor in a

detention facility or medium security facility" must be read to be consistent with the remainder of the Agreement. The Agreement makes clear that the placement of a minor into a detention facility is a specific determination that is made by Defendants in accordance with Paragraph 21, and contemplates an alternative to placement into a licensed facility. Custody by CBP immediately following apprehension is not the type of placement contemplated by Paragraph 21, and therefore is not the type of placement that would require such reporting. In any event, even if such reporting was required, the reasons for CBP custody are going to be limited to noting whether the minor was encountered by Border Patrol or encountered by OFO at a port of entry. Although Defendants do not think it is required, CBP is willing to add a column so noting if that is what you are requesting. If that is your request please let me know and I will ask CBP to add that column to the next report.

Best, Sarah

Sarah B. Fabian Senior Litigation Counsel Office of Immigration Litigation – District Court Section (202) 532-4824

From: Carlos Holguín

<a href="mailto:centerforhumanrights.emailto:

**To:** Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) <<u>sfabian@CIV.USDOJ.GOV</u>> **Cc:** <u>Deane.Dougherty@ice.dhs.gov</u>; Miranda-Maese, Aurora (ACF) (CTR) <<u>Aurora.Miranda-maese@acf.hhs.gov</u>>; Andrea Sheridan Ordin <<u>aordin@strumwooch.com</u>>; Paul H. Wise

<pwise@stanford.edu>; Alex Harten

<a href="mailto:<a href="mailto:aharten@strumwooch.com">aharten@strumwooch.com</a>; Peter Schey

<pschey@centerforhumanrights.org>; Murley, Nicole (CIV)

< NMurley@civ.usdoj.gov>; Silvis, William (CIV)

< WSilvis@civ.usdoj.gov>; Melissa Adamson

<madamson@youthlaw.org>

**Subject:** Re: Flores - September Data (HHS and CBP)

Sarah,

Plaintiffs have been patient, but Defendants have now delayed beyond what they required last year to produce September reports. Please provide a date certain by which the reports will be supplied. Regarding class members who remain in CBP facilities longer than 72 hours, there is no functional difference between "the reasons for placement" and "the reasons class members spend more than 72 hours in Border Patrol facilities."

ICE's reports, though persistently wanting in detail, include a column entitled "Detention Criteria" that supplies at least some explanation for unlicensed placement. CBP's reports should do the same.

Carlos Holguín
General Counsel
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http://www.centerforhumanrights.org

On Oct 30, 2020, at 9:06 AM, Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) <<u>Sarah.B.Fabian@usdoj.gov</u>> wrote:

Carlos – I did understand your request and was simply confirming that you received the documents that I already sent. I am pleased that you did receive those, and as I noted I will send the remaining spreadsheets as soon as ICE is able to get them done given the backlog in reporting from its end-of-year processing. Defendants appreciate your patience.

To clarify then, are you requesting "the reasons for placement" into CBP facilities, or "the reasons class members spend more than 72 hours in Border Patrol facilities"? If it is the latter then I do not read your explanation below to support your request.

Best, Sarah

Sarah B. Fabian Senior Litigation Counsel Office of Immigration Litigation – District Court Section (202) 532-4824 \\_--, --- ·-- ·

From: Carlos Holguín

<a href="mailto:centerforhumanrights.emailto:

**To:** Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) <sfabian@CIV.USDOJ.GOV>

Cc: Deane.Dougherty@ice.dhs.gov; Miranda-Maese, Aurora (ACF) (CTR) < Aurora.Miranda-maese@acf.hhs.gov>; Andrea Sheridan Ordin <aordin@strumwooch.com>; Paul H. Wise <pwise@stanford.edu>; Alex Harten <aharten@strumwooch.com>; Peter Schey <pschey@centerforhumanrights.org>; Murley, Nicole (CIV) < NMurley@civ.usdoj.gov>; Silvis, William (CIV) < WSilvis@civ.usdoj.gov>; Melissa Adamson < madamson@youthlaw.org>
Subject: Re: Flores - September Data (HHS and CBP)

Sarah,

Yes, we did receive Defendants' incomplete set of reports; hence my request for "complete reports" without further delay.

As for the reasons CBP detains class members in unlicensed placements, Settlement ¶ 28A provides: "The INS, through the Juvenile Coordinator, shall also collect information regarding the reasons for every placement of a minor in a detention facility or medium security facility." Settlement ¶ 29 provides: "[T]he INS shall provide to Plaintiffs' counsel the information collected pursuant to Paragraph 28, as permitted by law, and each INS policy or instruction issued to INS employees regarding the implementation of this Agreement."

Border Patrol facilities are indisputably "detention facilities," and the reasons Defendants detain children in them must therefore be reported.

Relatedly, pursuant to Settlement ¶ 29 and ¶ 5 of the Court's order of October 26, 2020 [Doc. #1014], Plaintiffs request Defendants produce all policies and instructions not previously supplied which they have issued to prevent, mitigate, or manage COVID-19 infection in ORR facilities.

Thank you.

Carlos Holguín
General Counsel
Center for Human Rights & Constitutional Law
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Los Angeles, California 90057
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On Oct 30, 2020, at 7:46 AM, Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) < Sarah.B.Fabian@usdoj.gov > wrote:

Carlos. I sent 3 of the 5 reports (CBP and HHS w/corresponding CBP) several days ago – please let me know if you did not receive those. ICE tells me that their data system was locked due to processing related to the end of the fiscal year and was only unlocked a few days ago. I have followed up with them and I know they are working on the reports and I will send them as soon as they are available.

Can you please clarify if you are requesting the reason for placement into CBP, or are you requesting something else? And relatedly, can you please explain the basis from the Agreement why you believe that the information you are requesting is required to be produced.

Best, Sarah

Sarah B. Fabian Senior Litigation Counsel Office of Immigration Litigation – District Court Section (202) 532-4824 From: Carlos Holquín <crholquin@centerforhumanrights.emai</p> Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 7:34 To: Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) <sfabian@CIV.USDOJ.GOV> Cc: Andrea Sheridan Ordin <aordin@strumwooch.com>; Paul H. Wise wise@stanford.edu>; Alex Harten <a href="mailto:aharten@strumwooch.com">aharten@strumwooch.com</a>; Peter Schey <pschey@centerforhumanrights.org>; Murley, Nicole (CIV) <NMurley@civ.usdoj.gov>; Silvis, William (CIV) < WSilvis@civ.usdoj.gov>; Melissa Adamson <madamson@youthlaw.org> Subject: Re: Flores - September Data (HHS and CBP)

Sarah,

Last year Defendants produced ¶ 29 reports on October 29. Please forward complete reports for this September without further delay.

Plaintiffs reiterate their request that CBP's reports for September and going forward provide the reasons class members spend more than 72 hours in Border Patrol facilities. According to CBP's September 2020 data report, at least 36 children were held in CBP facilities for more than 72 hours during the reporting period, including 16 children detained in Border Patrol stations for five or more days, among whom were several very young children, including W.K.P.M. ( ), a 6month-old infant held for approximately 13 days (311.65 hours); E.A.V.J. ), a 5-month-old infant held for approximately 15 days (345.12 hours); and N.T.S. ( ), a 2month-old infant held for approximately 16 days (394.47 hours).

Please advise.

Thank you.

Carlos Holguín
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Law
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http://www.centerforhumanrights.org

On Oct 23, 2020, at 2:24 PM, Fabian, Sarah B (CIV) < Sarah.B.Fabian@usdoj.go v> wrote:

All – I am told that the ICE data (and corresponding CBP report) will be available next week. Attached please find the reports for CBP and HHS (with corresponding CBP report).

Have a nice weekend all.

Best, Sarah

Sarah B. Fabian
Senior Litigation Counsel
Office of Immigration
Litigation – District Court
Section
Department of Justice
PO Box 868, Ben Franklin
Station
Washington, DC 20044

(202) 332-4024

<CBP NON-ToT Children with TIC greater than 72 hours\_SEP2020.xlsx> <CBP\_September 2020\_Corresponds to HHS September 2020 Data.xlsx> <HHS Flores Data-September 2020.xlsx>

# Exhibit G

DECLARATION OF HANNAH P. FLAMM, ESQ.

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I, Hannah P. Flamm, declare as follows:

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- This declaration is based on my personal knowledge. If called to testify in this 1. case, I would testify competently about the following facts.
- My name is Hannah P. Flamm, and I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the 2. State of New York.

#### Experience Serving Youth in ORR Custody

- Since December 2019, I have been a Managing Attorney at The Door's Legal 3.
- Services Center, a legal service provider that works primarily with immigrant youth.
  - Since December 2019, The Door has served unaccompanied children in the legal custody
- of the Office of Refugee Resettlement ("ORR") who have been placed by ORR at several 14
  - care providers within the ORR network, including The Children's Village in New York.
  - Over the last 11 months, The Door has served over 450 youth in ORR custody. Although
  - the majority of these youth come from Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador,
  - youth placed at these facilities may come from all over the world.
  - As the legal service provider for The Children's Village, our attorneys and staff
  - maintain regular contact with the youth at the facilities. We provide ongoing
- consultations and presentations concerning the legal rights of detained minors, as well as 21
  - direct legal representation to youth.

#### ORR COVID-19 Guidance and Policy

- The last ORR guidance pertaining to COVID-19 that we received was from the 5.
- summer of 2020 and only pertained to "Verbal Screening and Temperature Check for 26
- Staff and Visitors." We have not received any guidance directly from ORR since April 27
- 2020 regarding testing or any other COVID-19 protocols. We understand that ORR does

not have any protocols or policies regarding contact tracing. We do not believe that ORR is conducting any contact tracing.

- 6. ORR has not informed us of any ORR policy requiring ORR or care providers to notify legal service providers, attorneys of record, or other visitors if anyone at the care provider's site has tested positive for COVID-19, has been exposed to COVID-19, or has developed symptoms of COVID-19. Instead, ORR has declined to inform us if anyone at The Children's Village has tested positive, has been exposed, has exhibited symptoms, or has been denied entry to the site based on ORR's "Verbal Screening and Temperature Check for Staff and Visitors," even when our staff are visiting the site in person for client meetings. ORR has not informed us whether it is an ORR policy for providers not to provide this information or if it is at individual providers' discretion. To protect our clients' rights and to further the best interests, health, and safety of our clients and our staff, we need to be informed, with our clients' consent, if any of our clients has tested positive, has been exposed, or has developed symptoms of COVID-19; or if anyone at the care provider's site has not passed the "Verbal Screening and Temperature Check for Staff and Visitors."
- 7. Since July 2020, 10 minors have arrived at The Children's Village. At least three of their ORR records do not reflect their having received a COVID-19 test upon arrival (one who arrived in August 2020 as a transfer from another ORR facility in Texas; one who arrived in September 2020 as a direct transfer from ICE custody; and one who arrived in October 2020 as a transfer from another ORR facility in Texas). The Door has no formal means to learn if clients receive COVID-19 tests aside from their ORR records.
- 8. In July and August 2020, The Door learned inadvertently that two of our clients, both of whom had been detained at The Children's Village for months before the pandemic began, had tested positive for COVID-19. In neither case did ORR or The Children's Village staff inform The Door that the clients had tested positive, despite our requests that we be informed if a client ever received a positive test result. Instead, in one case, The Door learned that our client had tested positive only via unofficial sources,

including through another client living in the same placement. In another case, The Door learned that our client had tested positive only after The Door advocated for her prompt repatriation and discovered that her medical clearance was a source of the delay.

- 9. During remote, video-conference meetings since August 2020 and in-person meetings at The Children's Village since October 2020, The Door has observed minors apparently not in quarantine or wearing masks despite having arrived at the care provider within the previous two weeks and in some instances within the previous few days. On multiple occasions between August and November 2020, The Door staff have observed minors not wearing masks or not wearing masks properly, including while being within six feet of staff. The Door has observed that some minors lack understanding of COVID-19, quarantine, personal protective equipment, and their rights. The Door staff have observed laptops, pens, and other high-touch surfaces not being wiped prior to use and have not observed routine use of hand sanitizer. Of course it is unknown to The Door staff what happens off-camera and what may cause a newly arrived minor not to need to be in quarantine.
- 10. ORR has informed us that ORR defers to state and local policies governing each ORR network care provider. We are unaware of any ORR written policies or procedures that instruct care providers to comply with state and local policies. Additionally, we have received no information from ORR as to how care providers should reconcile conflicts across multiple policies from different jurisdictions (e.g. where children are transferred from Texas to New York).

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 23rd day of November 2020 at New York, New York.



Hannah P. Flamm

# Exhibit H

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CONSTITUTE Carlos R. Holguín (Cal. Bar No. 90754) 256 South Occidental Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90057 Telephone: (213) 388-8693 Email: crholguin@centerforhumanrights.c  NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW Leecia Welch (Cal. Bar No. 208741) Neha Desai (Cal. RLSA No. 803161) Poonam Juneja (Cal. Bar No. 300848) Freya Pitts (Cal. Bar No. 295878) Mishan Wroe (Cal. Bar No. 299296)	
10	Melissa Adamson (Cal. Bar No. 319201) 1212 Broadway, Suite 600	
11	Oakland, CA 94612	
12	Telephone: (510) 835-8098	
13	Email: lwelch@youthlaw.org	
14		
15	UNITED STAT	ES DISTRICT COURT
16	CENTRAL DIST	RICT OF CALIFORNIA
17	WESTERN DIVISION	
18		
19	JENNY LISETTE FLORES, ET AL.,	No. CV 85-4544-DMG-AGRx
20	PLAINTIFFS,	
21	V.	Decl + P + Troy of Length Western
22		DECLARATION OF LEECIA WELCH
23	WILLIAM BARR, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, ET AL.,	
24	THE CHIED STATES, ET AL.,	
25	Defendants.	
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**DECLARATION OF LEECIA WELCH** 

I, Leecia Welch, declare as follows:

- 1. I am the Senior Director of Legal Advocacy and Child Welfare at the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL). I represent Plaintiffs in the above-titled action. If called to testify in this case, I would testify competently about these facts.
- 2. On November 6, 2020, in my role as *Flores* counsel, I requested client interviews of children in Office of Refugee and Resettlement ("ORR") custody placed at Nexus Children's Hospital ("Nexus") in Houston, Texas.

#### **Inaccuracies in Flores Placement Data**

- 3. On November 12, 2020, the day before my site visit to Nexus, Department of Justice counsel Sarah Fabian emailed me an excel spreadsheet that I was told identified the only three children in ORR custody placed at Nexus. As it turned out, this information was inaccurate. As of November 13, there were six children in ORR custody placed at Nexus, four of whom appear to have been there for six months or longer. One child has been at Nexus for over a year.
- 4. The "Out of Network Placements" tab of the monthly HHS *Flores* data reports is supposed to list the children that ORR has placed in out of network facilities. However, the three children missing from the November 12 excel spreadsheet were also missing from the "Out of Network Placements" tab for the corresponding period. The HHS *Flores* data reports only show these children in the "Census" tab and incorrectly indicate they are currently placed in either long term foster care or various shelters.
- 5. I find it concerning that ORR continues to have inaccurate information regarding the location of children in out of network placements, who are among the most vulnerable children in ORR custody. Plaintiffs' counsel have raised this concern to Department of Justice counsel Sarah Fabian, met and conferred regarding this issue on

November 19, and are awaiting an explanation as to why these children were not included in prior out of network data reports.

#### **General Impressions of Nexus Children's Hospital**

- 6. On November 13, 2020, I arrived at Nexus and was provided a brief tour. A Nexus staff person and I discussed who I would be interviewing, and I indicated I would like to interview all of the children in ORR custody. At that point, based on communications with legal service providers, it was my understanding that there were five such children currently placed at Nexus. We discussed the fact that one of the children was only two years old and had been placed at Nexus due to very serious medical needs. Given that his mother was there with him every day (including that day), I indicated that I would meet with him if his mother was interested in speaking with me. The Nexus staff person agreed to speak to the child's mother on my behalf while I met with the other four children. She subsequently informed me that the child's mother was not interested in speaking with me, and I decided to follow up with this mother another time out of respect for her wishes and so as not to interfere with her time visiting her medically fragile child.
- 7. During my brief tour of the hospital, I found it to be a typical medical facility. Various children's wings were connected by long hallways with secure double doors. Personnel were dressed in hospital scrubs and stationed at various points in the hallways. Walls in some of the children's wings were brightly colored and there was a playground for outdoor recreation, but otherwise the facility was a traditional, sterile hospital environment.
- 8. While at Nexus, I met with three children in the behavioral health wing, one child who I believe was in a separate wing for children with behavioral and physical health needs, and one child who was in the wing for patients with more intensive physical health needs.

#### Overmedication of Children Placed at Nexus Children's Hospital

9. As a children's attorney, I have interviewed hundreds of children in government custody over the last twenty years, including children living in group homes, residential

treatment centers, psychiatric hospitals, juvenile facilities, and prisons. I have met with enough children and youth over the years to assess whether a facility appears to be overmedicating its young patients. At Nexus, there were clear indications that the three children I met with in the behavioral health wing were on excessive medications based both on their physical appearance and their complaints about the effects of the medication, e.g. drowsiness during the day, agitation, shaky hands, slurred speech, and sleep interference at night.

- 10. Two youth, in particular, appeared to be on extremely high doses of medication. A sixteen-year-old youth was able to track our conversation and engage with me to some degree but had a glazed over, vacant expression much of the time and reported to me that he takes somewhere between fourteen to twenty pills a day. Although I do not know exactly how many pills he takes each day, I know it is too many. Two independent child psychiatrists have reviewed his medication regimen at Nexus and made this determination. These pills make him feel tired during the day; yet he wakes up in the middle of the night and is unable to fall back asleep. In his six months at Nexus, they have forcibly injected him around five times. After he gets an injection, he sleeps for a day and wakes up feeling desperate.
- 11. A fifteen-year-old youth I met with appeared to be so overmedicated he could barely talk or maintain eye contact. I observed his hands shaking and his speech was slurred. He fell asleep repeatedly over a 20-minute period. When he was awake, he did nothing but lay in bed drooling and staring blankly at his TV. Despite his difficulty tracking my questions, he did look at me intensely for one brief moment and asked when he could go home. He said he had been asking for voluntary departure for seven months.

#### **Excessive Lengths of Stay at Nexus Children's Hospital**

12. In addition to my concerns regarding overmedication, the excessive length of time children are staying at Nexus is also disturbing. Three of the children I spoke with have been there for six months or longer. For the children with behavioral health needs, this was particularly perplexing because the primary mental health intervention appeared to

- be psychotropic medications. While youth shared that they had individual and group therapy, these modalities can be provided in a much less restrictive setting. It was not apparent from my conversations with youth that the treatment they were receiving could possibly justify keeping them in a highly restrictive hospital setting for such a long period of time. Youth shared that they spent the better part of their days confined in their hospital rooms with limited outside time and little to no education.
- 13. One fifteen-year-old youth I spoke to was sent to Nexus due to her weight, diabetes and issues with her knees. She has been there for over seven months. She would rather go back to the hielera than stay at Nexus because of how staff treat the children. When she arrived at Nexus, she was told that once she met the doctor's weight loss goal, she could leave. But once that weight goal had been met, she was told she would still have to stay. Although I have not been able to assess the extent of her medical needs, I did observe her moving around with a cane with no difficulty and checking her own blood sugar levels. In our time together, there were no indications that her medical needs continued to require her to live at a hospital.

#### Lack of Educational Services at Nexus Children's Hospital

14. Children in ORR custody at Nexus are also not receiving adequate educational services. Several reported that they received no education at all. It would be one thing if a child were there for a week, stabilized, and then returned to their placement—but children are staying for six months or longer with no educational services and little else to do. According to my conversation with a Nexus staff person, the onus for setting up an educational plan appears to be on the child's designated ORR "shelter". Nexus views the shelter as the child's guardian for purposes of arranging educational services through the local school district. Youth who don't have a designated local shelter, appear to get no education. Youth who do receive educational services though the local district, apparently get 1.5 hours a week of instruction and are given homework packets for the rest of the week.

**Concerns about Separated Child** 

- 15. After finishing my interviews with the four children in ORR custody, I checked in with the Nexus staff point of contact to let her know I was wrapping up for the day. I asked her if there were any additional children in ORR custody we had not discussed. She then noted that there was one additional child but that she was "nonverbal" and wouldn't be able to be interviewed. I said that wasn't a problem, and that I would just meet with her briefly. The Nexus staff person then led me to another part of the hospital with patients who appeared to have more intensive physical health needs. She couldn't remember exactly how long the child had been at Nexus but mentioned it had been a very long time.
- 16. Upon entry into the room, I observed a small child with perfectly coifed pigtails under a pink Minnie Mouse blanket. She was connected to machines and was unable to move or establish eye contact. An occupational therapist was standing next to her bed and about 5 other health care workers were standing to the side of the room—I believe receiving training on the child's individualized needs.
- 17. Hospital staff left me with the impression that the child's father had abandoned her. However, I have since learned that this child was separated from her father in August 2019 after they crossed the border together. He was deported before his daughter was in a position to safely return to home country with him; they remain separated and without any direct contact.
- 18. Based on my observation and subsequent fact gathering, the child appears to be well cared for. She has an independent Child Advocate who is appointed to advocate for her best interests, and who is in contact with the child's medical team, ORR staff, other independent medical experts, and the child's father.
- 19. What is most disturbing and cruel is that this child's father, who came here seeking help and protection, has now been separated from his daughter for more than a year. Although this child has now lived far longer than her predicted life expectancy, her

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long-term prognosis remains poor and without swift intervention, she and her father may never see one another again. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2020 at Boca Grande, Florida. Leecia Welch 

# **EXHIBIT I**

REDACTED
VERSION OF
DOCUMENT
PROPOSED TO BE
FILED UNDER SEAL

1	DECLARATION OF	
2		
3	I, declare as follows:	
4		
5	1. This declaration is based on my personal knowledge. If called to testify in this	
6	case, I would testify competently about these facts.	
7	2. I was born in on . I came to the United States	
8	approximately .	
9	3. I arrived at the border station . I came alone. There was a border official	
10	who was very rude to me and would laugh at me.	
11	4. At first, I was sent to a place in El Paso and then San Antonio, and now I'm here a	
12	Nexus in Houston. El Paso was a border facility. It was called an hielera.	
13	5. I liked the place in San Antonio. I didn't like El Paso much, but it was better than	
14	here. In San Antonio, I really liked it because they let us go outside and there were a lot	
15	of activities. I was there for about two months.	
16	6. I have now been at Nexus for about seven months. I woke up on a Saturday and	
17	they told me I was leaving the shelter in San Antonio that day. It was a surprise. They	
18	sent me here because of the weight problem I have and because of my knees and	
19	diabetes.	
20	7. I am doing better now. But no one has talked to me about how much longer I need	
21	to stay here.	
22	8. I liked the hielera better than here because of how they treat people here. It's not	
23	well. They don't treat people well. They try to be rude to me, but I don't let them get	
24	away with it. They are not nice to the other kids.	
25	9. At first they told me that I had to reach a weight level to leave. But then I reached	
26	that goal and they told me they did not have a place for me to go.	
27	10. I spend eight hours a day in my room. I leave for therapy or to go outside or the	
28	activities room. Being in my room is better than what else is going on in the hospital.	

feel good here.

13. I would like to be a gynecologist someday. I like kids and would love to help bring kids into the world.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020 at Houston, Texas.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION I, Soraya Morales Nuñez, hereby certify that I am proficient in both Spanish and English, and that I accurately translated the foregoing statement and read it back to , in its entirety in Spanish on November 13, 2020. Soraya Morales Nuñez 

## **EXHIBIT J**

# REDACTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT PROPOSED TO BE FILED UNDER SEAL

1	DECLARATION OF	
2		
3	I, declare as follows:	
4		
5	1. This declaration is based on my personal knowledge. If called to testify in this	
6	case, I would testify competently about these facts.	
7	2. I am 16 years old. I was born in Mexico on . I left Mexico in October	
8	2019 because I was being assaulted and threatened by gang members. I crossed the	
9	border in Arizona by myself. I have now been in immigration detention for about a year.	
10	3. I was first placed at a shelter in Arizona for about a month. It was a good	
11	experience. I liked it and would like for them to send me back there. They let us go	
12	outside, to the museum, and hang out outside.	
13	4. I was then moved to a facility in Washington in January, 2020. They	
14	didn't tell me anything. They woke me at 3 in morning and I was told to pack my things.	
15	I had been sleeping comfortably until they woke me.	
16	5. The facility in was okay but we were not able to go places or go outside.	
17	6. They let me know that they were going to send me to another shelter but they did	
18	not tell me where. One morning I woke up and they told me to pack my things because I	
19	was leaving.	
20	7. I have been at Nexus for approximately six months. I want to leave because when I	
21	get mad they give me shots. It has happened maybe five times. I think the last time was	
22	about a month ago. When they give me a shot, it makes me feel sad. And then I will	
23	sleep for a day. When I wake up after, I feel desperate. My body feels desperate.	
24	8. When I get angry, I know how to calm myself. They use physical restraints when I	
25	get angry but that makes me angrier. But it's been a month that I haven't been angry. I	
26	am doing better. I was told I would leave soon.	
27	9. At Nexus, each day I wake up about 3 a.m. I have trouble sleeping. I lie in my bed	
28	and watch TV. At 8 there is breakfast. After breakfast, I come back to my room. At	

28

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION I, Soraya Morales Nuñez, hereby certify that I am proficient in both Spanish and English, and that I accurately translated the foregoing statement and read it back to in its entirety in Spanish on November 13, 2020. Soraya Morales Nuñez