

# CAM AOR FACTSHEET



## WHAT IS THE CENTRAL AMERICAN MINORS (CAM AOR) PROGRAM?

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The CAM AOR program is an in-country refugee/parole processing program through which minors who are nationals of **El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras** can join a parent who has legal status in the United States. The program provides a safe, legal, and orderly option for reuniting with your children.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

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You may file the CAM AOR (form DS-7699) if you are at least 18 years of age and are in the United States lawfully in one of the following categories:

- a. Permanent Resident Status
- b. Temporary Protected Status Grantee
- c. Parolee
- d. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Recipient
- e. Deferred Action (non-DACA) Recipient
- f. Deferred Enforced Departure Recipient
- g. Withholding of Removal Grantee

## WHO WILL BENEFIT?

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If you have unmarried children under the age of 21 who are nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and reside in their country of nationality, they may benefit from you filing a CAM AOR. This includes your step-children and adopted children. Adopted children must have been in the legal custody of and resided with the adopting parent or parents for at least two years and have been legally adopted before their 16th birthday. Your children must continue to be unmarried until they are admitted to the U.S. Your child's unmarried children under 21 years of age (your grandchildren) may also be included on the application. In some cases, your spouse (legal parent of your child) may benefit if he or she lives in the same household as your child and maintains a documented marriage to you. The marriage between you and the parent of the child must have existed prior to you filing the CAM AOR.

## WHAT IF MY CHILD IS DENIED APPROVAL?

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If U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) finds your child to be ineligible for refugee status, but you wish your child to be considered for parole, you must do the following:

- Submit a Form I-134, Affidavit of Support with supporting documentation to USCIS for each applicant to show that you can support the applicant should he or she be paroled into the U.S.
- Obtain and pay for a Medical Clearance for the parolee.
- Ensure the paroled individual books his or her travel through an approved USCIS process and pays for the flight to the United States.

## WHEN CAN I APPLY?

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The State Department began accepting AORs for the CAM program on December 1, 2014.

## WHERE DO I APPLY?

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Only an approved refugee resettlement agency can file the CAM AOR for you **International Institute of Minnesota** is a refugee resettlement agency affiliate of USCRI that is approved by the U.S. State Department. We will help you fill out the CAM AOR form free of charge. We will tell you what documents to provide. We will also submit the form to the government for you. You can contact us at the following address: **International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108**. Our phone number is **651-647-0191**.

# THE CAM AOR PROCESS



## WHAT IS DNA TESTING AND WHO NEEDS TO BE TESTED?

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A DNA test between parents and their biological children can prove that they are related. You will need to be tested if you fill out a CAM AOR form, as will all of your biological children listed on the form. Your child's derivatives (your grandchildren) listed on the form may also have to be tested if requested.

It is important for you to get tested and purchase test kits for your children as soon as your resettlement agency notifies you about the DNA test request.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

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It is estimated that you will have to pay between \$300 and \$440 to get yourself and one child tested. You might pay between \$150 and \$220 for each additional child who needs to be tested. If the test shows that you have a biological parent-child relationship with each biological child or derivative child on your form, you may get all of your money back. If the test shows that you are not related to ALL biological children on your CAM AOR form, then you will not get ANY money back.

## HOW DO I GET TESTED?

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Your local resettlement agency can provide you with a list of approved labs for testing in the United States. The government will contact your family overseas at the address that you listed on the CAM AOR and explain to them what to do. The lab will use a cotton swab to take a sample of saliva from your cheek for testing. The saliva will be analyzed to see if it contains the same DNA as the samples collected from your children.

## MAKE SURE THE INFORMATION ON YOUR FORM IS TRUE

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Do not claim a biological parent-child relationship which would be proven false by the DNA Test. If you think that there is a possibility that you do not have a biological relationship to people that you call your children, then you should talk to them before filling out the CAM AOR. If the DNA test shows that a biological parent-child relationship listed on the CAM AOR form is false, there may be repercussions. This may include having to pay a fine of up to \$10,000 or spending up to five years in prison. Your family members overseas may lose their ability to ever come to the United States, and you may risk being removed from the United States.

## WHAT PROCESS DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO UNDERGO?

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The process has multiple steps and may take around a year or more. If your relationship with your children is confirmed by DNA testing, USCIS will interview your children (and your spouse if applicable) to determine if they can come to the U.S. as refugees. The Resettlement Support Center (RSC) will schedule medical exams for the applicants approved by USCIS. Medically cleared applicants will undergo a security check. The document showing your legal status will also be checked to ensure it has at least one year of validity.

## YOUR CHILD'S TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL IN THE U.S.

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The International Organization of Migration (IOM) will contact you or your child's guardian overseas to sign a promissory note for the cost of the flight to the United States and then arrange your children's travel. Your resettlement agency will inform you about the travel plans and prepare to receive your family. The agency will provide your children (and spouse) with Reception and Placement (R&P) services and assist them with their initial resettlement needs.