



# Why Are Parents Being Taken Away?

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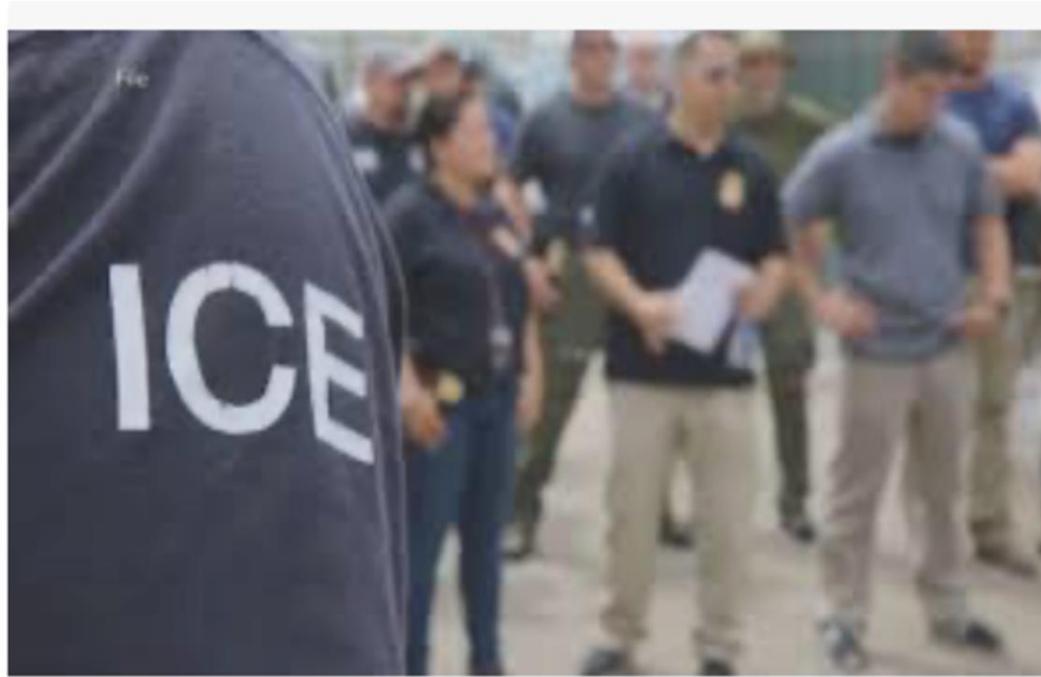
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Mama, I heard that some kids' parents were taken away.

People wearing jackets that said 'ICE' were taking them.

I'm scared.

Could that happen to you and Papa?



abc7NY.com

A silhouette of a man lifting a child into the air against a sunset background. The man is on the left, reaching up with his arms, and the child is in the center, suspended in the air with their hair blowing. The background shows a horizon line over water, with a gradient from blue to orange to yellow.

Sweetheart, I can see you're worried, and that's okay.

Mama and Papa will be here with you, and no one can take us away.

But why were some of my  
friends' parents taken away?

Did they do something  
wrong?



No, they didn't do anything wrong.

Then why were they taken away?

My friend says only bad people get taken away.

Are they bad people?



NBC News

No, your friend's parents are not bad people at all.

Your friend's parents are **immigrants** like Mama, Papa, Grandpa, and Grandma.

What do you mean?



The Guardian

**Im-mi-grants** are people who leave their first home country to make a new home in another country, like the United States.

Many immigrants come to the United States because they didn't feel safe in their home countries.



The Nation.com



Photo by [Rajiv Perera](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Some people come here to find food, shelter, and work.

They want a better life for themselves and their children, hoping to find a safe place where they can live and be happy.



Photo by [Alex Gallegos](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Immigrants have done many important things for our community.

They work in the fields to grow the food we eat.

They are teachers, like the ones at your school.

They are doctors and nurses who take care of people and help them feel better.



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If they are not bad people, why are they taken away?



Upsplash.com



Law Office of Parviz Malakouti

People who are not born in the United States need special papers to stay and live here forever.

These papers are called a “Green Card” or a “Visa.”

What are those? Why do you need them?

It's kind of like having a pass.  
When we go to a movie, we need to buy a pass.  
When we ride a bus or train, we need a pass too.  
Immigrants need a Green Card or a Visa, like a pass, so they  
can stay in the U.S.



US Visa Service

Why can't people just buy the pass or get the Green Card or Visa?



Upsplash.com

Getting a Green Card or Visa can cost a lot of money and take a long time.

Why can't everyone get them?

There are many rules to get them. The rules are tricky and can change quickly and frequently.

For some families, there is no way for them to get a Green Card or a Visa.



Dreamstime.com

Other families have been living in the U.S for many years without the special papers.

To get the Visa or a Green Card, they might have to leave their families and return to a place they hardly know.



[Upsplash.com](https://www.upsplash.com)

What happens to people who don't have enough money and can't get the papers they need?



Adobe Stock

Well, that is what happens to many people who are taken away.

It is called **De-por-ta-tion.**

What does that mean?



UCLA Newsroom

**De-por-ta-tion** is when someone has to leave the country they're living in and go back to their home country.

This can happen if they don't have a Green Card or a Visa.

It's what happens to some parents when they are taken by **ICE**, a group of people who check if others have those papers to stay in the U.S.



The Salt Lake Tribune

What happens after they are taken away?

Some of them are put on a plane and sent back to their home country.

Others have to wait away from their families to see if they could come back.



Reuters.com

Did you and Papa get your papers, like a Green Card or Visa?



Italo Treno

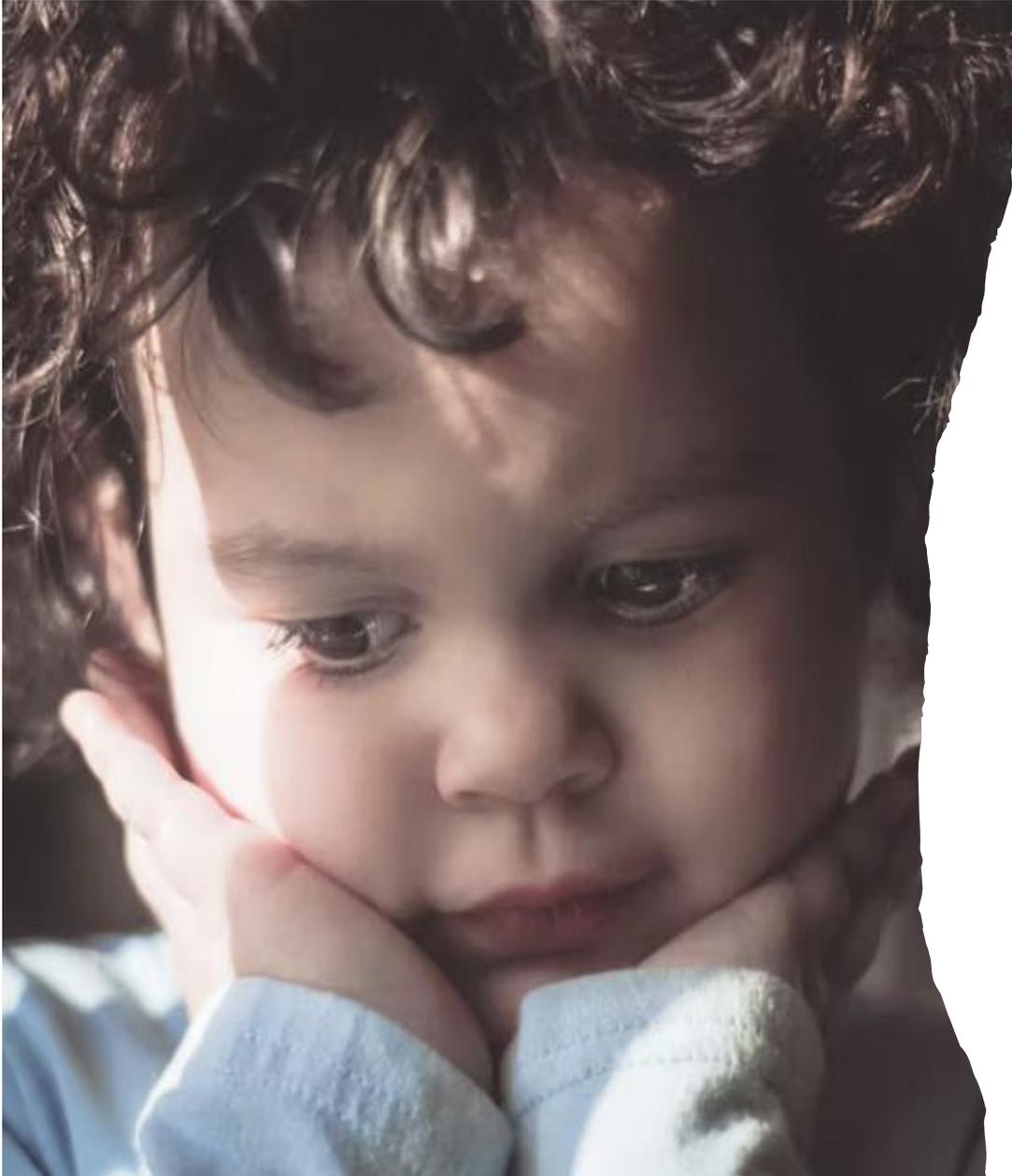


CitizenPath

Yes, we're lucky because we were able to get our Green Card and become **citizens**.

What does "*ci-ti-zens*" mean?

It means we can stay in the U.S. forever.



What about me? Did you buy a pass for me? Do I have a Green Card, or a Visa? Am I a citizen?

Good Questions! You were born in the U.S., so you're already a citizen and don't need a pass to stay.

Mama, I'm sad for the kids  
whose parents were taken  
away.

What happens to the kids?

Upsplash.com



I know, sweetie. It's hard for kids to be separated from their parents.

They might be able to stay with family members, like an aunt or uncle, who can take care of them.

They often have a plan for making sure their kids are safe.



Regain.com

# Will these kids see their parents again?



Upsplash.com

I'm not sure, but the parents would do everything they can to come back for their child.

If I were them, I would run as fast as I could to come back and be with you!



[Upsplash.com](https://www.upsplash.com)

Mama, how can I help my friends if their parents are taken away?

You can be kind to them and play with them so they don't feel so lonely.

You can also ask if it's okay to give them a hug to help them feel better.



Upsplash.com

You can speak up if other kids make fun of them. Tell those kids it's not okay to do that. You can also tell your friends that their parents are not bad people.

What else do you think you can do?

How about sharing my toys?

Great idea!! Sharing your toys will help them feel cared and loved.



Upsplash.com

What if they miss their  
Mama and Papa?

Even though their  
parents may not be there  
to hug them or talk to  
them, their parents will  
always be with them in  
their hearts.



Upsplash.com

They can talk to their parents in their hearts.

They can draw pictures or write letters to their parents.

If they can, they call them to feel close.

And they can help their parents by taking good care of themselves and their siblings.



Photo by [Jerry Wang](#) on [Unsplash](#)



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Photo by [Budi Gustaman](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Remember, Mama and  
Papa love you forever!

We will always keep you  
safe.

No one can ever take  
Mama and Papa away  
from you—not even for an  
itty-bitty tiny bit!



Upsplash.com

# Notes to Adults

When deportation happens, many children from immigrant families feel scared and worried that their parents might be taken away by ICE. Adults can help by reassuring them about their safety, answering children's questions, and validating their feelings.

This book is for parents, caregivers, guardians, and educators to help children ages 3-8 understand the deportation and immigration process in the U.S. Its goal is to reassure children that their parents will not be taken away by ICE. For younger children, especially those age 3-4, some vocabulary may be difficult, but using simpler terms, like 'passes,' can help them better understand and connect with the situation.

The book also encourages children to show empathy for others whose parents may have been taken away and, most importantly, reminds them of their parents' unconditional love.



Upsplash.com

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