

# WARNING

## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CRIMINALS TARGETING FAMILIES OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

There are criminals who target relatives of unaccompanied children entering the United States by demanding money from sponsors and/or family members, claiming the money will cover processing, reunification, and travel expenses needed to allow the children to be reunited with their families.

### **Fees for Processing or Release**

There are no fees associated with the processing or release of an unaccompanied child. You do not need to pay money. No one should contact you and ask you for money, your bank account number, your credit card number, or ask you to send payment or a money order to another person or account.

### **Fees for Travel**

You are responsible for the cost of your child's transportation and, if the care provider is escorting the child, for the care provider's transportation or airfare. If an airline escort is used, you are responsible for paying the airline's unaccompanied minor service fee. Travel costs should only be paid directly to a company, usually the airline or the care provider facility. No one should ask you to pay travel costs to an individual or to a personal account.

**THESE ARE ILLEGAL ATTEMPTS TO STEAL YOUR MONEY. IF YOU ARE CONTACTED AND ASKED FOR FEES, OR ASKED TO PAY OR WIRE MONEY, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY CALL THE ORR NATIONAL CALL CENTER HELP LINE.**

**ORR National Call Center (800) 203-7001**

Anyone who is requested to make payment for fees or expenses related to the processing, reunification, or travel of unaccompanied children should view such a request with extreme caution and follow these best practices, as recommended by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI):

- Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as officials and asking for payments or donations door-to-door, via phone, mail, e-mail, or social networking sites.
- Be skeptical of individuals requesting payment or contributions by courier or wire, or those who request your bank account or credit card number.
- Verify the legitimacy of the government agency or non-profit organization by utilizing various Internet-based resources which may confirm the correct phone number, e-mail, and/or the group's existence and its non-profit status rather than following a link to an e-mailed site.
- Call the official telephone number of the government agency seeking money to ensure the request for payment is legitimate.
- Do not respond to any unsolicited (spam) incoming e-mails. Do not click links contained within those messages.
- Be cautious of e-mails that claim to show pictures of intended recipients in attached files which may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders.
- Make contributions directly to known organizations rather than having others make the donation on your behalf to ensure contributions are received and used for intended purposes.
- Do not give your personal or financial information to anyone who seeks payment or solicits contributions. Providing such information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identity theft.