

Color Code

Government Agency Action	Court Order
NGO Involvement	Numbers

April 2017

The Trump Administration directs federal prosecutors along the southwest border to prioritize prosecutions of immigration-related offenses.

February 2018

The ACLU files the *Ms. L v ICE* lawsuit on behalf of a woman seeking asylum who was forcibly separated from her 7-year-old child at the border.

April 2018

Attorney General directs federal prosecutors along the southwest border to adopt a “**zero-tolerance policy**” for improper entry immigration-related offenses.

June 15, 2018

The first time that DHS publicly acknowledges that it separated around **2,000 parents and legal guardians**. The government does not have a clear protocol for reunifying families.

June 18, 2018

KIND deploys emergency teams of attorneys to the border to assist parents separated from their children.

June 26, 2018

District Judge Dana Sabraw issues a preliminary injunction in the *Ms. L* case ordering the court to halt separations and giving U.S. immigration authorities 30 days to reunite separated families and two weeks to reunite children younger than 5.

July 10, 2018

Court-ordered deadline for the reunification of class members and children younger than 5.

December 2018

After multiple revisions, HHS reports a new total of **2,737 separated children** under *Ms. L v. ICE*.

July 2017 - April 2018

The Trump Administration begins a pilot project separating parents from their children along CBP's El Paso sector.

1,556 children separated

March 2018

The ACLU files an amended complaint in federal court on behalf of a class of parents who have been separated from their children by the government and whose children are in ORR custody, asking the court to prohibit separation and require reunification of class members with their children.

May 2018

DHS adopts zero-tolerance policy; Attorney General publicly announces the policy's implementation at DOJ and DHS.

2,814 children separated

Initial *Ms. L* class members

June 17, 2018

Journalists and human rights advocates tour an old warehouse in McAllen, Texas and find hundreds of children being kept in cages with metal fences.

June 20, 2018

In response to immense public pressure, President Trump signs executive order directing DHS to cease the separation of families except in cases where a parent may present a risk to the child.

July 2018

Court-ordered deadline for the reunification of class members and children aged 5-17.

1,050 children remain separated

July 26, 2018

Approaching the court's deadline, **more than 900 parents have yet to be reunified** with their children.

463 parents deported without their children identified

January 2019

The inspector general of HHS finds that thousands more children were separated from their parents since 2017, starting in the summer of that year.

Timeline: Family Separation and Reunification Efforts

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March 2019

After a motion filed by the ACLU, with KIND's support, the court expands *Ms. L's* class to include parents who entered the U.S. on or after July 1, 2017, with children from whom they were separated.

March 2, 2019

Twenty-nine parents, who had been separated from their children, returned to the U.S. with the help of NGOs to be reunited and seek asylum.

July 2019

Hundreds of children continue to be separated from their parents despite the court order halting separations. KIND files a Declaration supporting the ACLU's Motion to Enforce the Preliminary Injunction in the *Ms. L* case.

September 2019

Judge Sabraw orders the return of nine parents who were separated and deported from the U.S. without their children.

October 2019

HHS identifies an additional **1,556 separated children** under the expanded *Ms. L* class.

January 22, 2020

The nine separated, deported parents reunited with their children they had not seen in over a year and a half.

Hundreds more children still remain separated

October 2020

Presidential candidate Biden pledges to create a task force to reunite separated families if elected.

February 2, 2021

President Biden orders the formation of the President's Interagency Task Force on the Reunification of Families (Task Force) under DHS.

June 2021

KIND represents some of the first families to return from Central America under the Family Reunification Task Force process.

September 2021

KIND begins outreach to inform deported parents and families about the process of returning and reuniting with their children.

September 13, 2021

The Task Force launches the together.gov website to allow separated families to register to seek reunification in the U.S.

November 2021

KIND, together with UNHCR and supported by the U.S. State Department, launches a Help Desk to find and serve families who have yet to be reunited.

December 2021

The government backs out of discussions to settle claims filed by separated families under the Federal Torts Claims Act.

December 2021

The Task Force announces **over 100 reunifications, including 40 families** that KIND represented in their return claims.

January 2022

KIND has so far contacted 422 families and registered 337 on the Task Force's website together.gov.