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# INFORMATION ALERT

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June 21, 2018

## **California Psychological Association Statement on Separation of Families at the Border**

The California Psychological Association (CPA) and its Immigration Task Force have been appalled by the separation of children from their families at our borders. Despite the executive order that was signed yesterday changing this policy, the harm caused by this abuse and trauma has been done. Our profession's scientific literature has documented that separating children from their parents can lead to anxiety, depression, attachment difficulties, trauma, and long-term emotional and intellectual damage. Several thousand children have been removed from their families and either placed in detention centers or foster care, and their whereabouts are unknown to their parents. Immediate efforts need to be made to reunite these families, keep them together while they proceed through the immigration process, and provide psychological support for the trauma they likely have experienced.

The California Psychological Association endorses the [statement](#) made by American Psychological Association regarding the harmful impact of such separation of families. The CPA Immigration Task Force has created a [set of recommendations](#) for mental health professionals who wish to work with immigrant families and a provider locator tool that identifies California psychologists who have experience working with immigrant clients and are willing to provide low to no-fee services. To use this locator service, start [here](#), then under "Specialty Areas," search for "Immigration Psychotherapy" and/or "Immigration Psych Assessment." Sliding scale and pro-bono options can be found under "Accepts Insurance." If you are a CPA member and have this expertise please consider listing yourself in the locator service as a means of making your services available to those who need them.



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