
INFORMATION ALERT

February 19, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Over the weekend, the *Washington Post* released an [article](#) regarding the egregious practice of breaching confidentiality for the purpose of deportation of youth. This practice is the result of the April 2018 memorandum between the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The ultimate result of this breach of confidential information, obtained through the course of mandated counseling, is that the information is used to deny asylum to some immigrant youths.

This *Washington Post* article raises grave concerns about abuse and violation of confidentiality of mental health records. Such abuse of confidentiality can perpetuate already existing trauma and traumatic stress of minor immigrants. It is abhorrent that the therapeutic relationship is being used to cause harm to those most vulnerable and in need of care.

The California Psychological Association and the California Latinx Psychological Association stand in agreement with and support the American Psychological Association's [position](#) that this horrific practice must end immediately. ICE must also release any detained minors who were denied asylum under this practice, and the Department of Health and Human Services and Congress are called upon to investigate ORR and the prevalence of this practice.

The CPA Immigration Task Force previously created a set of [recommendations](#) for mental health professionals who wish to work with immigrant families. We must protect the privacy and rights of all individuals in our communities exposed to systemic abuse and oppression by others. It is only through these protective practices regarding the sanctity of confidentiality between mental health providers and consumers that we are able to maintain integrity and trust in mental health providers.

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