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minor; and who has no parent(s) in the United States. *Limitation:* No child may be considered by a State to be *unaccompanied* for the purpose of this part unless such child was identified by INS at the time of entry as *unaccompanied*, except that a child who was correctly classified as *unaccompanied* by a State in accordance with Action Transmittal SSA-AT-79-04 (and official interpretations thereof by the Director) prior to the effective date of this definition may continue to be so classified until such status is terminated in accordance with §400.113(b) of this subpart; and the Director may approve the classification of a child as *unaccompanied* on the basis of information provided by a State showing that such child should have been classified as *unaccompanied* at the time of entry.

Title IV-B plan means a State's plan for providing child welfare services to children in the State under part B of title IV of the Social Security Act.

§400.112 Child welfare services for refugee children.

(a) In providing child welfare services to refugee children in the State, a State must provide the same child welfare services and benefits to the same extent as are provided to other children of the same age in the State under a State's title IV-B plan.

(b) A State must provide child welfare services to refugee children according to the State's child welfare standards, practices, and procedures.

(c) Foster care maintenance payments must be provided under a State's program under title IV-E of the Social Security Act if a child is eligible under that program.

§400.113 Duration of eligibility.

(a) Except as specified in paragraph (b), a refugee child may be eligible for services under §400.112 of this part during the 36-month period beginning with the first month the child entered the United States.

(b) An unaccompanied minor continues to meet the definition of ''unaccompanied minor'' and is eligible for benefits and services under §§400.115 through 400.120 of this part until the minor—

(1) Is reunited with a parent; or

(2) Is united with a nonparental adult (relative or nonrelative) willing and able to care for the child to whom legal custody and/or guardianship is granted under State law; or

(3) Attains 18 years of age or such higher age as the State's title IV-B plan prescribes for the availability of child welfare services to any other child in the State.

§400.114 [Reserved]

§400.115 Establishing legal responsibility.

(a) A State must ensure that legal responsibility is established, including legal custody and/or guardianship, as appropriate, in accordance with applicable State law, for each unaccompanied minor who resettles in the State. The State must initiate procedures for establishing legal responsibility for the minor, with an appropriate court (if action by a court is required by State law), within 30 days after the minor arrives at the location of resettlement.

(b) In establishing legal responsibility, including legal custody and/or guardianship under State law, as appropriate, the minor's natural parents should not be contacted in their native country since contact could be dangerous to the parents.

(c) Unaccompanied minors are not generally eligible for adoption since family reunification is the objective of the program. In certain rare cases, adoption may be permitted pursuant to adoption laws in the State of resettlement, provided a court finds that: (1) Adoption would be in the best interest of the child; and (2) there is termination of parental rights (for example, in situations where the parents are dead or are missing and presumed dead) as determined by the appropriate State court. When adoption occurs, the child's status as an unaccompanied minor terminates.

§400.116 Service for unaccompanied minors.

(a) A State must provide unaccompanied minors with the same range of child welfare benefits and services available in foster care cases to other