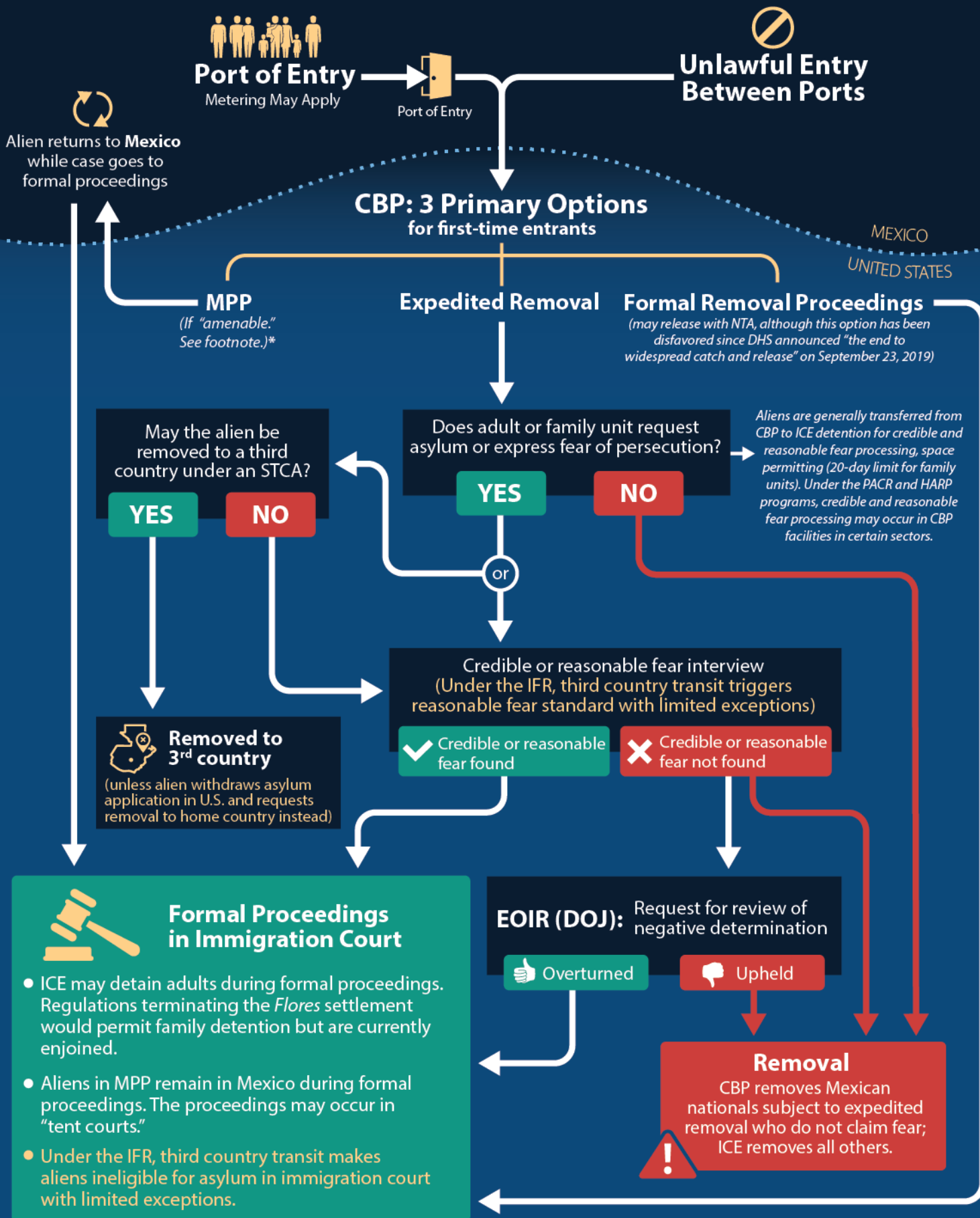


Processing of Adults and Family Units Arriving at the Southern Border Without Valid Documents

From Entry to Immigration Court or Removal

The Trump Administration has implemented a series of policies that change the processing of non-U.S. nationals (aliens) who arrive at the southern border without valid entry documents, many of whom claim asylum or a fear of persecution. These policies include metering, the Migrant Protection Protocols, an interim final rule that makes aliens ineligible for asylum if they reach the southern border through third countries (with limited exceptions), and safe third country agreements with Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador (these agreements are at varying stages of implementation). These policies generally apply to adults and family units only. (The interim final rule, however, also applies to unaccompanied alien children in formal removal proceedings.)



Abbreviations - BIA: Board of Immigration Appeals; CBP: Customs and Border Protection; DHS: Department of Homeland Security; DOJ: Department of Justice; EOIR: Executive Office for Immigration Review; HARP: Humanitarian Asylum Review Process; ICE: Immigration and Customs Enforcement; IFR: Interim Final Rule; MPP: Migrant Protection Protocols; NTA: Notice to Appear; PACR: Prompt Asylum Claim Review program; STCA: Safe third country agreement

Information prepared by Ben Harrington, Legislative Attorney; Hillel Smith, Legislative Attorney; and Brion Long, Visual Information Specialist. This product builds upon an earlier analysis by William Kandel and Hillel Smith. For more information, see CRS In Focus IF11363, *Processing Aliens at the U.S.-Mexico Border: Recent Policy Changes*, and CRS In Focus IF11357, *Expedited Removal of Aliens: An Introduction*.

*Unaccompanied alien children, Mexican nationals, aliens likely to face persecution or torture in Mexico, and some other categories of aliens are not "amenable" to the MPP. See Customs and Border Protection, MPP Guiding Principles (Jan. 28, 2019), <https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2019-Jan/MPP%20Guiding%20Principles%201-28-19.pdf>

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