

## **Issues Facing CASA Volunteers with Immigrant parents**

### **Immigrant Parents in Detention**

Challenges facing immigrant parents in detention include:

... trauma exposure to children at time of arrest; abandonment of children; children coming home to empty homes

... difficulty in locating and staying in communication during detention

... logistical challenges at deportation

... immigration judges have no discretion to consider the adverse impact of parental deportation on US citizen children

### **Complications of Immigrant Cases**

- Aggressive immigration enforcement has had a chilling effect on the willingness of the immigrant community to seek assistance during a crisis, such as reporting crimes or domestic violence, as well as utilization of eligible services.
- “Fear factor” by government and nonprofit staff in providing services especially in anti-immigrant states
- Difficulty in providing culturally appropriate/linguistic services with tight budgets/increasing caseloads
- Difficulty of placement with relatives
- Inexperience of agencies in providing domestic and international searches for potential relative placements

### **Immigration Policy Trends**

- Highest number of deportations in US history
  - Increasing anti-immigrant hostilities in work, school, home
- ....e-verification

... education access to k-12/higher education

... birthright citizenship battle in the 111th Congress

... Arizona copycat legislation in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Missouri with more to come

... deny child tax credit and food stamp benefits for US born children of undocumented immigrants

### **Resources & Additional Information**

Elena Cohen (2010), "A Social Worker's Toolkit for Working with Immigrants – Healing the Damage: Trauma and Immigrant Families," American Humane Association,  
<http://www.americanhumane.org/children/professionalresources/program-publications/child-welfare-migration/tool-kits.html>

Yali Lincroft, Ken Borelli and Angie Junck (2009). "A Social Worker's Toolkit for Working with Immigrant families," Migration and Child Welfare National Network,  
<http://www.americanhumane.org/children/professionalresources/program-publications/child-welfare-migration/toolkits.html>

MCWNN & American Humane Association/Research Brief (2010).  
"Children of Immigrants in the Child Welfare System: Findings from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being."  
<http://www.americanhumane.org/assets/docs/protectingchildren/PC-ChildofImmigrant.pdf>