

Paper Dolls to Free Families

Across the country, ICE is ripping children away from their communities and detaining them alongside their parents. In March of 2025, the administration [reopened the South Texas Family Residential Center](#) (also known as “Dilley”) in rural Dilley, TX. This is the center where 5-year-old Liam Ramos is currently being detained after ICE agents took him and his father from their home in Minnesota 1,200 miles away.

Conditions in Dilley are horrific. Families lack access to [clean drinking water, nutritious food](#), and basic [medical care](#), all posing serious health risks. Children’s chronic medical conditions, acute illnesses, and injuries are being [overlooked or ignored](#). Studies have consistently shown that placing children in detention, under any conditions, is [traumatic and creates long-lasting harm](#), such as developmental delays, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicidal thoughts.

Family detention is inhumane and unnecessary. No family should ever be detained.

What can I do?

Everyone deserves to live freely without fear, together with their families in a place they call home.

Here’s what you can do to help:

1. **Gather your friends to make paper dolls**, using the template doll on the last page of this toolkit.

Write a message on the doll, such as:

- a. What you hope for children and families
- b. Your wish to end family detention
- c. Or, the future you would like to see

Check out the [Free Families campaign toolkit](#) for resources and ideas to help you plan this gathering.

2. **Next, deliver your paper dolls to members of Congress.**

- a. You can mail the dolls to your members of Congress

Or alternatively, you can drop the dolls off at their local offices. Every Senator and Representative has offices in their home states by finding the address on their websites. Click [HERE](#) to locate your member of Congress.

- b. You can also mail some of your paper dolls to Amnesty USA at 1150 18th St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036 by March 4th. Our coalition will hand-deliver your dolls to Congress, as we meet with them to demand an end to family detention. The dolls serve as a powerful visual representation of the children who are in detention and the demand from constituents across the country for Congress to protect children.

3. **Contact your members of Congress to tell them to end the inhumane policy of family detention once and for all!** Additionally, share your concern for families in detention and encourage your elected leaders to use their oversight authority to put a stop to the widespread abuse and neglect that children and adults are experiencing in ICE custody right now. You can use our [online action tool](#) to quickly and easily contact your member of Congress by email, phone, and social media, or use the suggested text provided on pages 4-6 of this toolkit to call and write to your member of Congress and tag them on social media.

4. **Share on social media.**

a. To reach more people, post about this campaign on your social media. You can download the graphics [HERE](#), and use the tag #FreeFamilies.

b. **Sample Caption:** Parents & kids in ICE detention are being denied access to due process, clean water, medical care, school, & even crayons. It's long past time to stop the cruelty, neglect, & abuse. End family detention now! #FreeFamilies

5. **Educate yourself and your community about the brutal realities for children and parents inside detention.**

a. In our [FAQ document](#), you'll find a list of frequently asked questions and answers about family detention to use as a resource in thoughtful conversations with your friends, family, coworkers, and others in your networks about how families end up in detention, why it matters, and what we can do about it.

PHONE SCRIPT

Hello, my name is [full name], and I'm a constituent living in [city, town, or zip code]. I'm reaching out today to ask my Representative/Senator to do everything in their power to end the dangerous policy of family detention as soon as possible.

Families in ICE detention are currently being denied clean drinking water and access to medical care, and their children are being deprived of the opportunity to go to school or to even draw with crayons. As long as families continue to be held in immigration detention, I urge you to use your Congressional oversight power to protect due process and ensure the rights, health, and safety of the families inside, and use your platform to work to end the practice of family detention once and for all. Thank you.

SEND AN EMAIL

The action tool is embedded at the bottom of [this blog post](#) and is also accessible using this QR code:

