

Unaccompanied Immigrant Children and the McKinney-Vento Act Overall Process from Apprehension through Placement¹

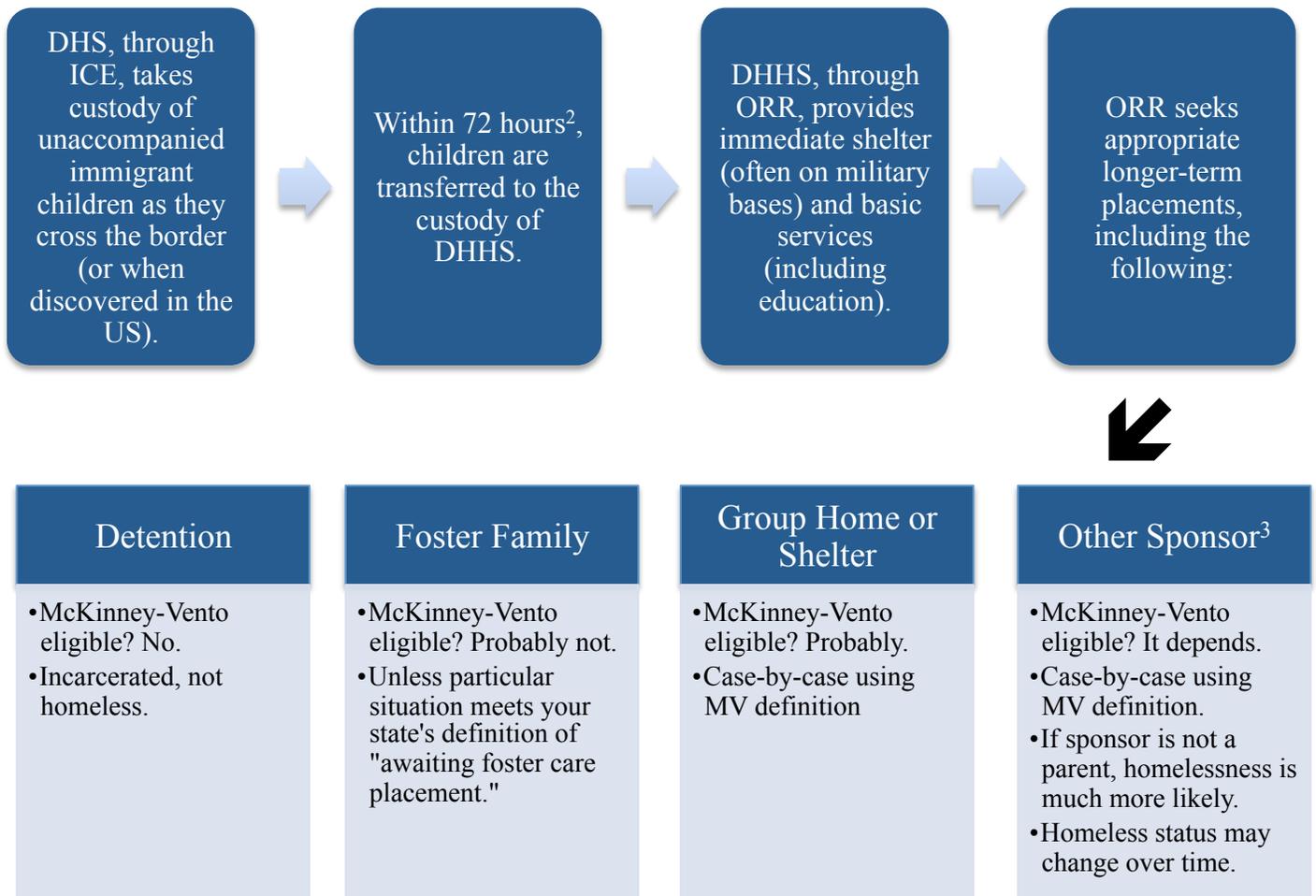
Terminology

DHS: Department of Homeland Security, the federal agency that oversees immigration law and enforcement.

ICE: Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the subdivision of DHS that handles immigration investigations and enforcement and takes unaccompanied immigrant children into custody. Includes HSI (Homeland Security Investigations) and ERO (Enforcement and Removal Operations).

DHHS: Department of Health and Human Services, the federal agency that takes custody of and provides services to unaccompanied immigrant children as they await adjudication.

ORR: Office of Refugee Resettlement, a subdivision of DHHS with the responsibility to provide for the custody, care and placement of unaccompanied immigrant children until their immigration case is completed.



1. Please note this flowchart provides only an oversimplified snapshot of the process, designed to help education staff understand its general flow.
2. The legal requirement is 72 hours. However, recent reports indicate many children are being held by DHS longer than 72 hours as DHHS searches for less restrictive placements.
3. Other sponsors include a parent (32% of children released to sponsors are placed with a parent); another adult relative, such as a sibling (9%), aunt/uncle (19%) or grandparent; another adult, such as a family friend or acquaintance (27%); or a legal guardian.