

IMMIGRATION RELIEF

Joshua is a fifteen-year-old boy from Uganda. He was taken into protective custody after he was found living on the streets. You learn that in Uganda, he was forcibly recruited into the Lord's Resistance Army – as had approximately 30,000 other children in the country. He fled Uganda, despite repeated threats against his life by government soldiers, and came to the U.S. illegally in January 2011 on promises of an education. Instead, Joshua was forced by his “sponsor” to work day and night in a factory; he didn't attend school, nor was he paid for his work. Joshua eventually escaped from the factory, and had been living on the streets and with “friends” since. His father has been located here in the U.S., and Joshua will likely be released to his care and his juvenile court case closed.

What kind(s) of immigration relief might Joshua qualify for now? What challenges might Joshua face in seeking this immigration relief?

Sara was born in Guatemala, and was raised there by her maternal grandmother. In 2006, at the age of 17, she entered the U.S. without permission to reunite with her mother – who is a lawful permanent resident. Sara's mother, however, soon afterwards ran off with her boyfriend, leaving Sara alone. Sara entered the foster care system, and family reunification services were terminated. You worked with her while she was in the juvenile court system. She emancipated out of the system in 2008, but has been struggling since because she cannot work legally nor get federal financial aid for college. She is now 22. Her situation has been made more difficult because she is now blind in one eye as a result of a drive-by shooting; the shooter was eventually sent to prison with the help of Sara's testimony.

What immigration relief might Sarah have been eligible in 2007? What immigration relief might Sara be eligible for now? If Sara's mother reappeared and wanted to help Sara with her immigration situation, what are some challenges Sara might face?

Henry is fourteen years old. He entered the U.S. from Mexico on a border crossing card when he was two years old, and he has been here ever since. He was physically abused by his lawful permanent resident father for years, but this abuse only came to light a year ago when the school nurse discovered what was happening. Henry's mother had been fearful of calling the police, or intervening, because she is undocumented. Henry became a ward and was placed in a foster home. It is not clear whether Henry will reunify with his mother or not, since she is having a difficult time leaving Henry's abusive father. Henry currently lives with a foster family.

What kind of immigration relief might Henry be eligible for now? What type of immigration relief might he qualify for in the near future?