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CONTACT

Michael Shmarak
312.919.9222

The American College of Legal Medicine Responds to Issues Related to Migrant Children Being Separated From Parents

EAST DUNDEE, IL, JULY 3, 2018—The following statement comes from the Executive Committee of the American College of Legal Medicine in response to the numerous instances of children being separated from parents as a result of families applying for asylum in the United States.

“A family is among a person’s most sacred connections. It is something larger than any one person, business or entity. Most importantly, a family is neither Republican nor Democrat.”

“The actions taken by United States government result in nothing more than bypassing one’s moral fabric. Separating children from parents rips the ethical fibers of what constitutes a family to shreds. We should not stoop to barbaric levels to hurt the development and well-being of children.”

“The American College of Legal Medicine upholds the ethics of law and medicine, but above all else, we recognize the power that comes with being a parent. Seeking asylum in our country may or may not be the right or best choice for a family seeking a better way of life. But choosing to split up a family is not a solution; it merely exacerbates a problem.”

“We support our peers in medicine, law and other practices in condemning the actions taken against children and parents at the border. At the same time, we call upon all parties—regardless of political or social affiliation—to help reunite parents with their children and re-fortify the strongest relationship that we know.”

About the American College of Legal Medicine (www.aclm.org)

The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) is the most prominent professional society in the United States concerned with addressing issues that arise at the interface of law and medicine. Fellows of the American College of Legal Medicine, which comprise over 50% of its membership, have degrees in law and one or another health science. The majority have both MD and JD degrees. Others are JDs with DDS, RN, or PhD degrees. College members also include physicians (M.D., D.O.), attorneys (J.D., L.L.B), dentists,



Registered Nurses, podiatrists, scientists, and other health professionals. Through its medical legal resources, the ACLM educates and assists health care and legal professionals, advances the administration of justice, influences health policy, improves health care, promotes research and scholarship, and facilitates peer group interaction. In addition, the American College of Legal Medicine represents the specialty of legal medicine in the American Medical Association's Specialty and Service Society.

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