



ERICSA 63RD ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

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Milwaukee

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Disappearing Parents

Speakers:

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Moderator:

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Description:

What happens when the parents disappear? Please join us for this session as we dive into the ins and outs of everything related to locate. We will begin with the basics of locate and then dive into complicated locate scenarios and situations we've been seeing recently, such as the increasing struggles with parents who disappear and may either be in custody with ICE or have been deported. In addition, we will discuss homeless and undocumented or migrant parents who require nontraditional services and attention. Join us as we listen to the problems and look at ways to handle these cases. As you leave the session, our goal is to provide real time tips to help you with locating parents.



Locate Basics



Definition of Locate

- Process of obtaining physical whereabouts of noncustodial parents
- Includes employer, income, and asset information
- Used to establish, enforce, or modify support orders



When Location Is Required

- Whenever information is needed to proceed on a IV-D case
- Required before establishment, enforcement, or modification
- Applies to assigned and applicant cases



Location Information Sources

- Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS)
- State agencies (Medicaid, SNAP, unemployment)
- Employers and financial institutions
- Postal service, utilities, courts, corrections
- Credit bureaus and authorized private databases



Systems and Tools Used in Locate

- FPLS: NDNH, Federal Case Registry, SSA, IRS, VA
- State Parent Locator Services (SPLS)
- Interstate systems and automated locate tools
- Data-matching and employer reporting systems



Locate Timeframes

- Locate efforts must begin within 75 days of need determination
- Follow-up requests required if initial locate attempt fails
- Interstate referrals when person found in another state



Vital Locate Sources

- Custodial Parent
- Accurint
- Georgia Department of Community Supervision (Probation Officers)
- Georgia Department of Corrections
- Sheriff's Office/Process Servers
- Georgia My Voter Page
- Georgia Gateway (IV-A agency case information system)
- Georgia SHINES (IV-B agency case information system)
- SMI Payment/Document Imaging
- Georgia Department of Driver Services

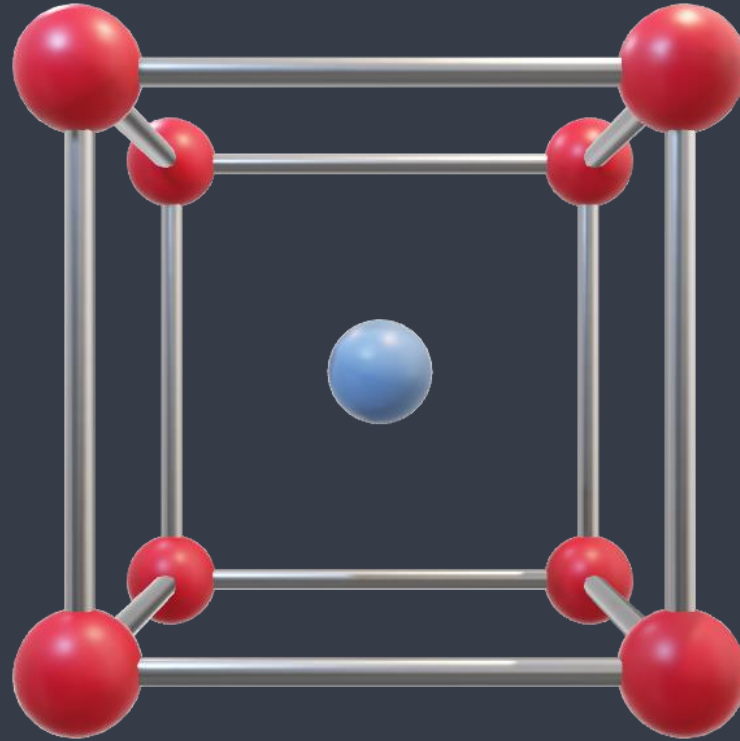




Complex Locate Scenarios



Complex locate scenarios in modern IV-D cases



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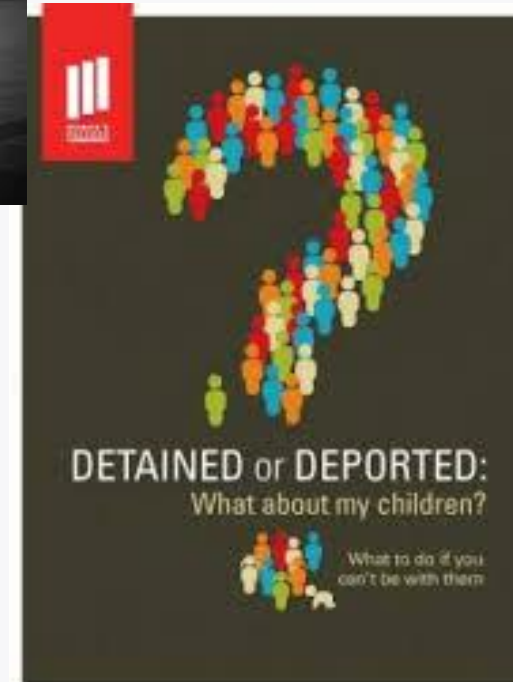


THE REALITY BEHIND “DISAPPEARING PARENTS”



Moving outside traditional data systems

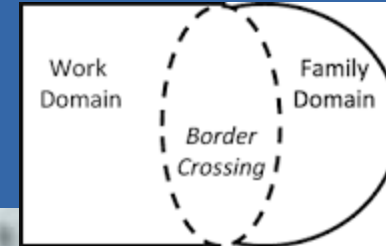
- Examples
 - Immigration detention
 - Deportation
 - Homelessness
 - Undocumented status
 - Informal employment
 - Transient housing



WHY THIS IS HAPPENING MORE OFTEN

Trends affecting IV-D locate:

- Migration patterns
- Housing instability
- Gig economy employment
- Cross-border family structures
- Increased immigration enforcement



THE PARENT WHO VANISHES OVERNIGHT

A parent with an active support order:

- Stops appearing at work
- Stops responding to communication
- Payments stop immediately

Employer reports the parent was taken into immigration custody



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

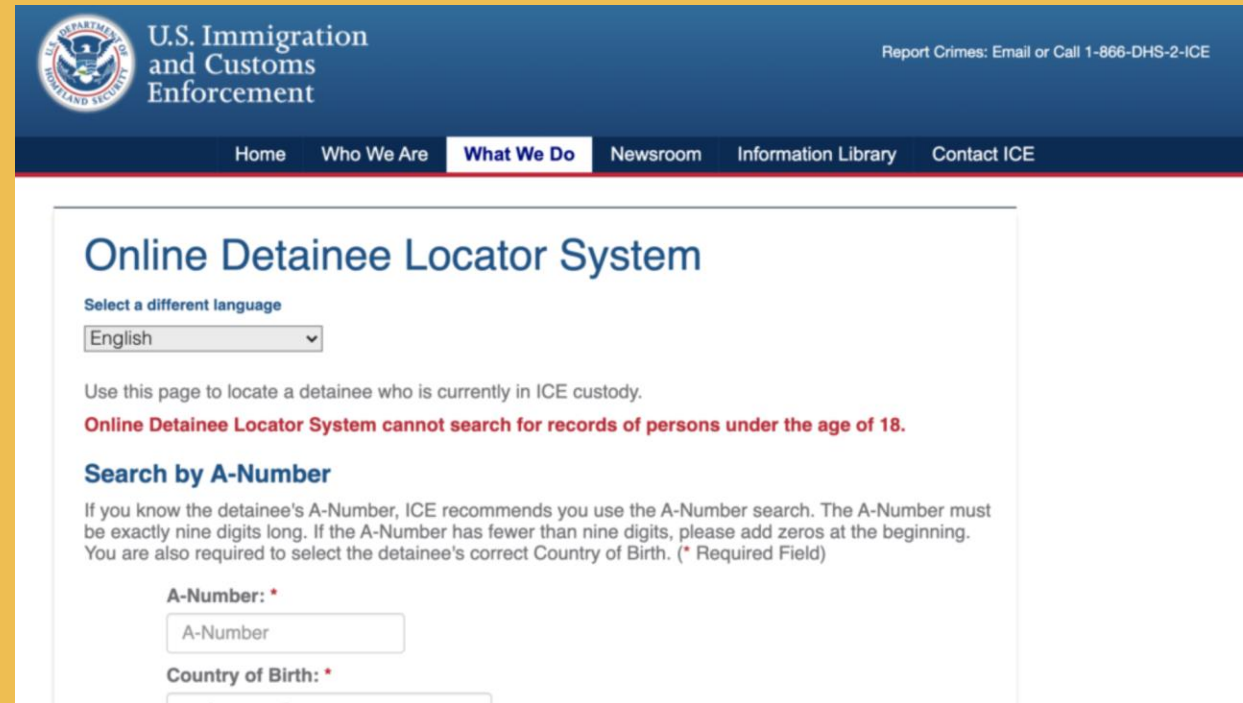
ICE DETENTION LOCATE

ICE Detainee Locator

Search by:

- Alien registration number, or
- Name + DOB + country of birth

<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search>



The screenshot shows the official website of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, specifically the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Online Detainee Locator System (ODLS). The page has a dark blue header with the ICE logo and the text "U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement". To the right of the header, it says "Report Crimes: Email or Call 1-866-DHS-2-ICE". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: "Home", "Who We Are", "What We Do" (which is highlighted), "Newsroom", "Information Library", and "Contact ICE".

The main content area is titled "Online Detainee Locator System". Below the title, there is a link "Select a different language" and a dropdown menu currently set to "English". A paragraph of text states: "Use this page to locate a detainee who is currently in ICE custody." Below this, a red warning message reads: "Online Detainee Locator System cannot search for records of persons under the age of 18."

The section "Search by A-Number" is highlighted in blue. It contains the following text: "If you know the detainee's A-Number, ICE recommends you use the A-Number search. The A-Number must be exactly nine digits long. If the A-Number has fewer than nine digits, please add zeros at the beginning. You are also required to select the detainee's correct Country of Birth. (* Required Field)".

Below the text, there are two input fields: "A-Number: *" with a text box labeled "A-Number", and "Country of Birth: *" with a dropdown menu.



THE DEPORTATION CASE

A parent is removed from the United States.

The support order remains active.

The custodial parents asks: “Can we still enforce the order?”

The issue = Locate

- Family members
- Custodial Parent
- Immigration Proceedings Search: <https://portal.ice.gov/eoir>
 - ✓ A-Number (9 digits)
 - ✓ First/last name (must match exactly)
 - ✓ Country of birth



An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

EOIR | Automated Case Information

Court Closures Today December 25, 2024 | Please check <https://www.justice.gov/eoir-operational-status> for up to date closures.

English

Automated Case Information

Welcome to the Automated Case Information System. The following information relates to the primary case only. Please contact your local court if you need bond hearing information.

If you are a recent arrival and were apprehended between ports of entry on or after May 28, 2021, placed in removal proceedings, and enrolled in

Enter your A-Number

A-Number **Required* [What's an A-Number?](#)

SUBMIT

Case information from this automated resource is provided for convenience only. Documents the immigration court or Board of Immigration Appeals issue to you or your representative are the only official determinations related to your case.





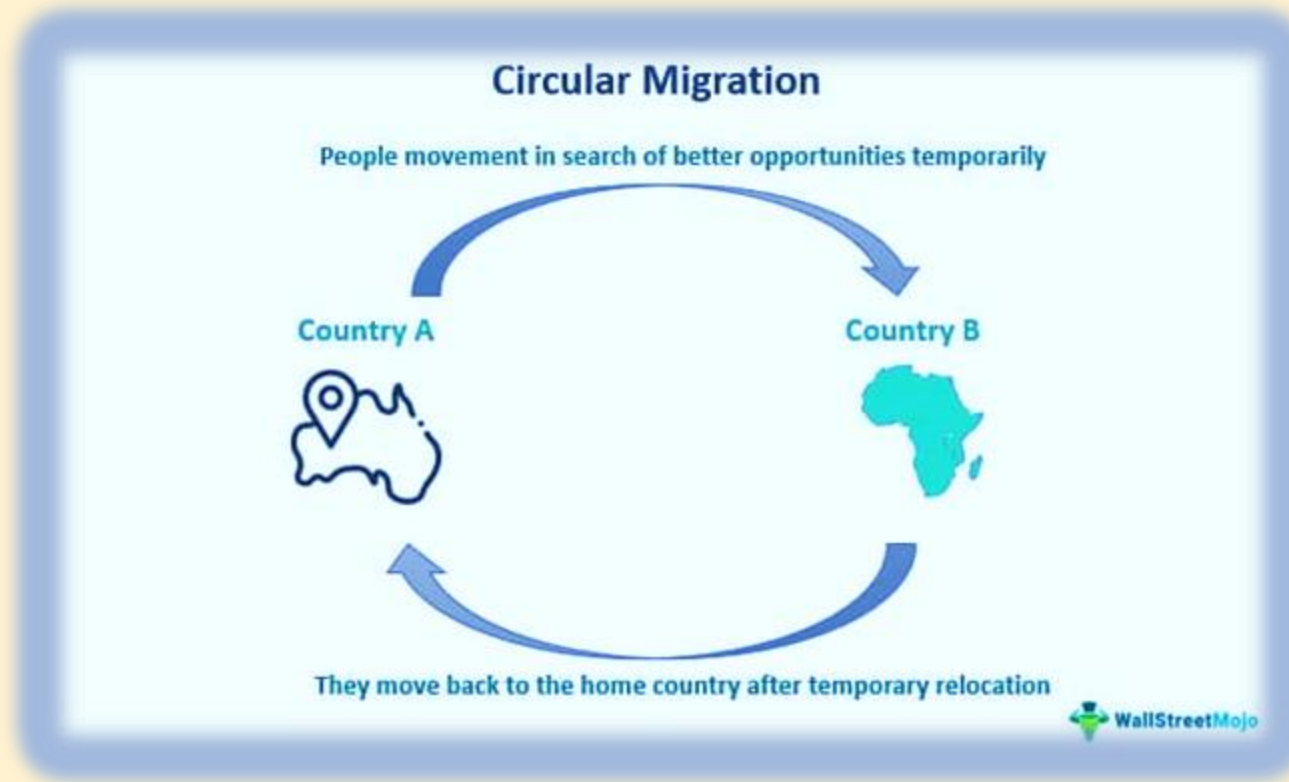
- **AFTER DEPORTATION**
- Possible pathways once parent is located:
 - UIFSA international cases
 - Hague Convention enforcement
 - Central authority cooperation
 - Foreign court proceedings

CIRCULAR MIGRATION

Some parents move repeatedly between countries.

Examples:

- Seasonal work migration
- Parents splitting time between countries
- Frequent cross-border movement

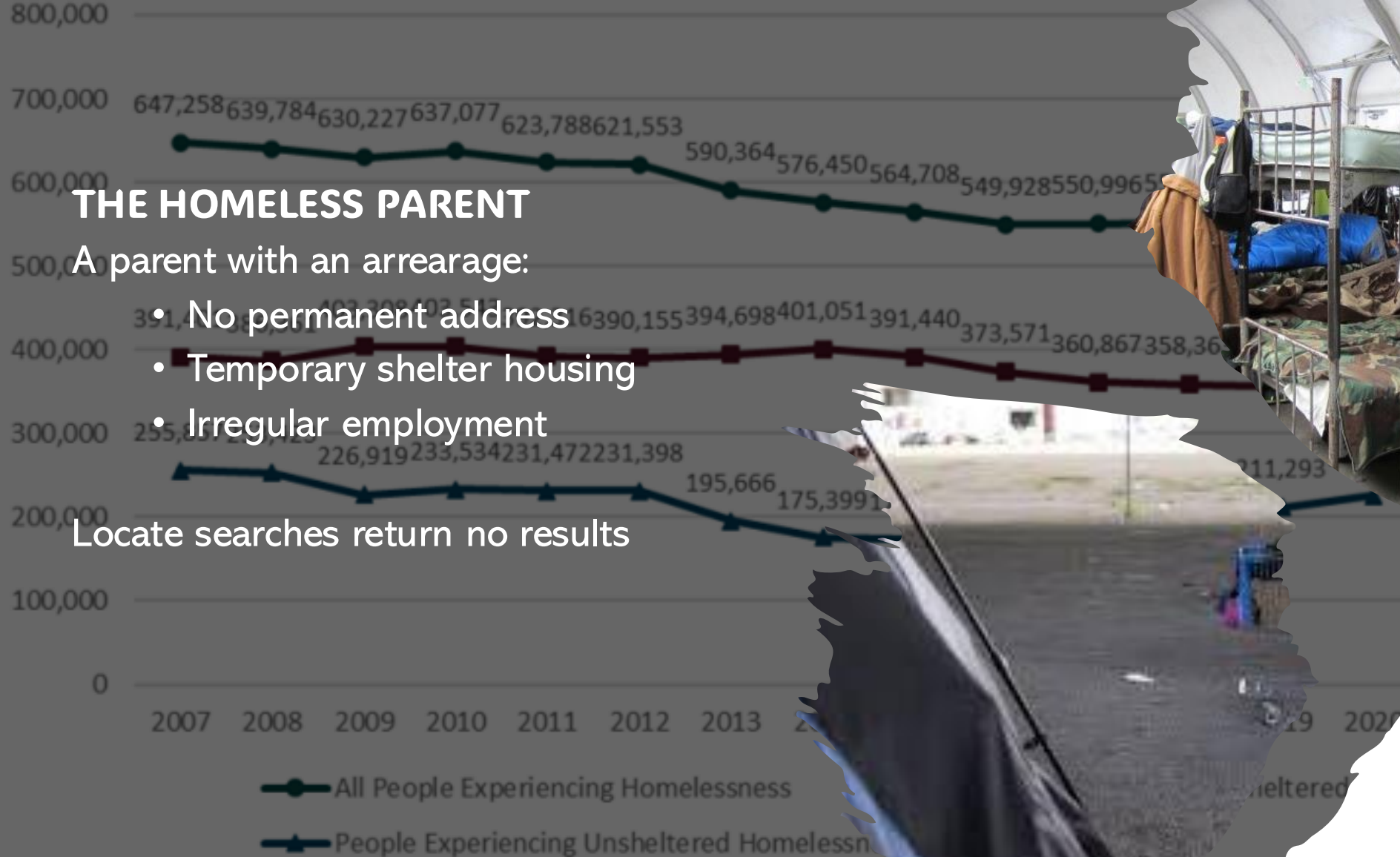


THE HOMELESS PARENT

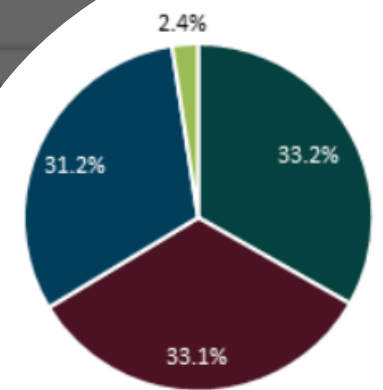
A parent with an arrearage:

- No permanent address
- Temporary shelter housing
- Irregular employment

Locate searches return no results



Homelessness by Household Member Status, 2024



Note: The exhibit does not display the total count of people experiencing homelessness in 2021 or the count of unsheltered homelessness because of pandemic-related disruptions to counts. Estimates of the number of people experiencing homelessness in 2021 should also be viewed with caution, as the number could be artificially (falsely) reduced compared with non-pandemic years due to shelter capacity in some communities and safety concerns regarding staying in shelters.

Sheltered Individuals
Unsheltered Individuals
Sheltered People in Families
Unsheltered People in Families

Income INCONSISTENCY

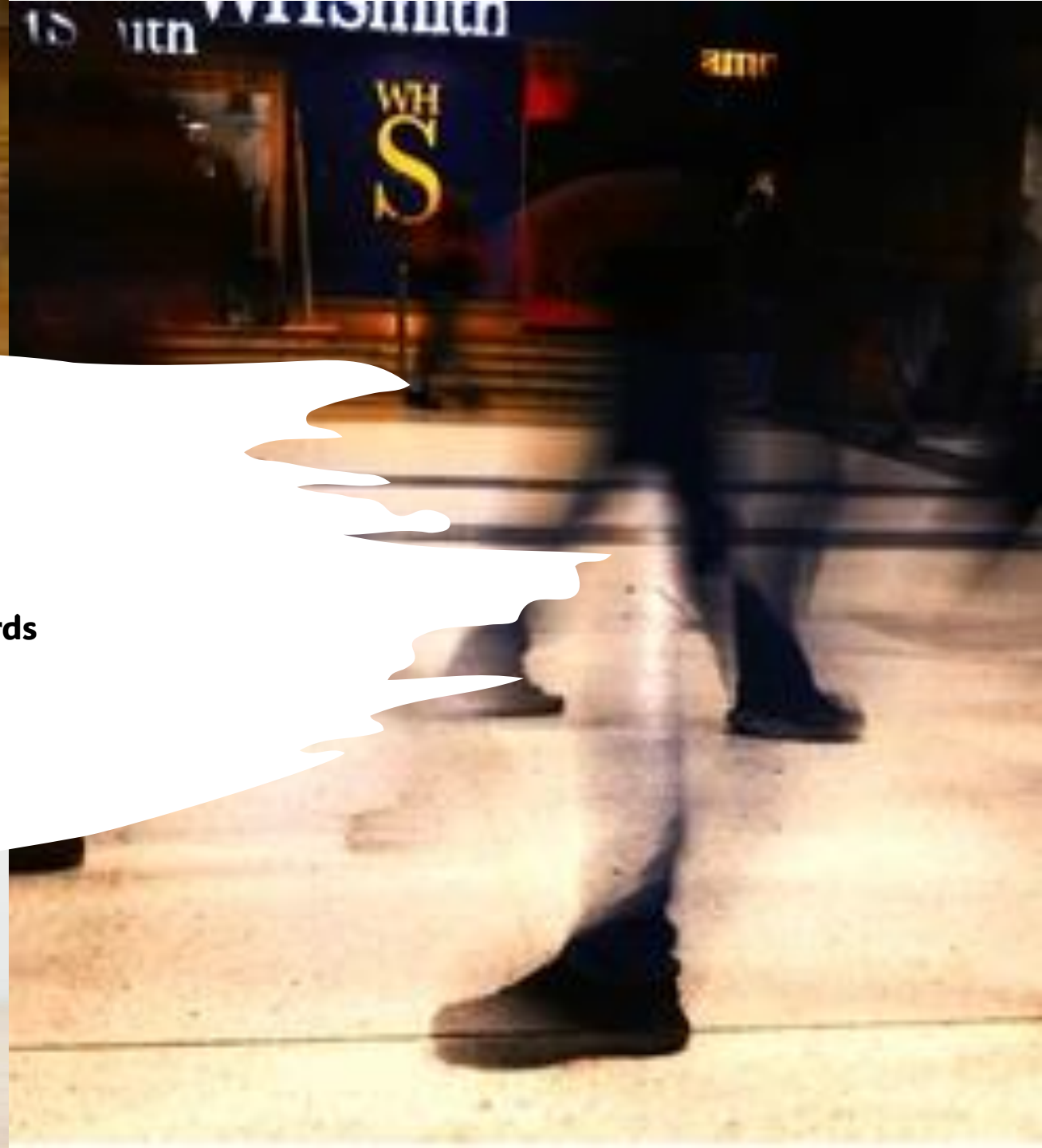
HOMELESS LOCATE CHALLENGES

Common Issues:

- No stable mailing address
- Frequent relocation
- Unstable phone access
- Irregular/short-term/no employment records

Practical locate strategies:

- Shelter/transitional housing records
- Case managers or social workers
- Jail and hospital admissions
- Multiple contact methods





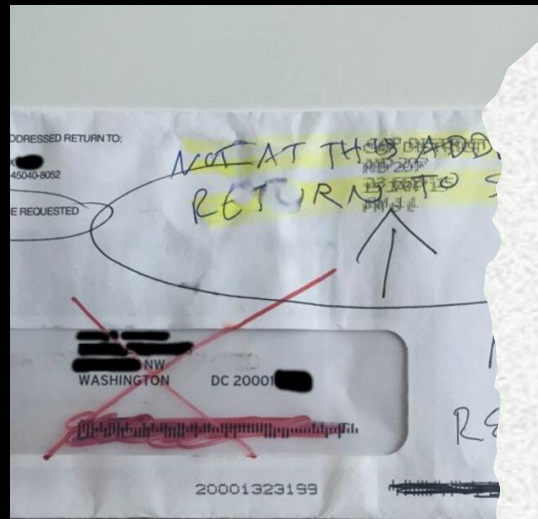
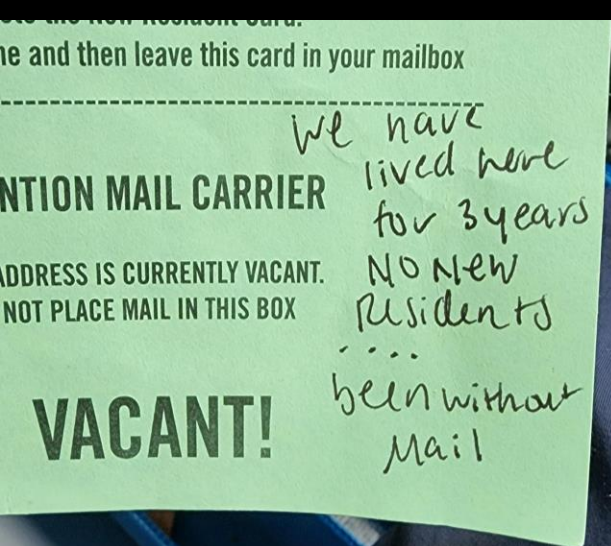
INFORMAL HOUSING SITUATIONS

Examples:

- Couch surfing
- Shared housing
- Migrant worker housing
- Employer-provided housing

Locate tips:

- Ask who the parent is staying with
- Identify frequent gathering places or neighborhoods
- Recent utility or mailing addresses
- Social media clues



UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANT PARENTS



Challenges include:

- Lack of SSN records
- Informal employment
- Reluctance to interact with government systems
- Mobility between communities

Locate tips:

- Rely on community connections
(churches, markets, neighborhoods)
- Track common work locations
- Track seasonal employment patterns
- Maintain contact with family members or relatives
- New hire reporting to check for formal employment

Where Undocumented Immigrants Work

U.S. industries with the highest share of the workforce made up of undocumented immigrants

		Total number of undocumented workers
Construction	13.7%	1,544,600
Agriculture	12.7%	244,700
Hospitality	7.1%	1,002,200
General Services	6.5%	500,800
Wholesale Trade	5.5%	193,400
Transportation/warehousing	5.5%	460,500
Manufacturing	5.4%	870,400
Professional Services	4.7%	970,800
Overall	4.6%	7,500,000

AIC analysis of 2022 American Community Survey data (published Oct. 2024)

Source: American Immigration Council



statista



THE GIG ECONOMY EFFECT

Income sources may include:

- Multiple short-term jobs
- Independent contracting
- App-based work
- Cash employment
- Income paid through apps or direct transfer
- Inconsistent work locations

But gig income is getting reported:

- Form 1099-NEC for independent contract income
- Form 1099-K for payments processed through platforms
- Federal and state tax reporting requirements

Practical locate tips:

- Identify platforms the parent may be using (rideshare, delivery, freelance apps)
- Check vehicle registration tied to rideshare or delivery work
- Previous support payments (bank/payment information)
- Monitor tax intercept and reporting records





PRACTICAL STRATEGIES



Helpful approaches:

Repeated locate attempts

Coordination with detention facilities/other agencies, etc.

International cooperation

Community contacts

Subpoena power

Documenting locate efforts

KEY TAKEAWAYS

“Disappearing parents”  Broader changes in society:

- Migration
- Unstable housing
- Informal economies
- Cross-border families

IV-D locate strategies must adapt



WHAT DIFFICULT LOCATION SITUATIONS ARE YOU SEEING IN YOUR JURISDICTIONS?



Sources

Online Detainee Locator System, <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search>

ICE Portal – Immigrant Court Hearing Search, <https://portal.ice.gov/eoir>

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Carry.com, 2026 Gig Economy Trends for Freelancers and Self-Employed Workers, <https://carry.com/learn/gig-economy-trends-for-freelancers-and-self-employed-workers>

Administration for Children and Families, Child Support Handbook – Chapter 2, Finding the Noncustodial Parent, https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ocse/chapter2_0.pdf



Locate Tips



Difficult to Locate Parents

- Evading Service
 - Process Servers
- No SSN/DOB
 - Use Relative/Associates information to identify the non-custodial parent (Accurint)



Georgia Statewide Locate Hub

- All cases requiring locate services are assigned.
- Cases are grouped by characteristics
 - Establishment
 - Enforcement
 - In-state
 - Intergovernmental
 - No SSN/DOB for NCP
- FY 2026 stats
 - 5,117 new cases assigned
 - 4,569 non-custodial parents located
 - 5067 cases remain unlocated





Questions?

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