



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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Statement

ICE Statement on the ACLU suit settlement regarding the T. Don Hutto Family Detention Facility

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is pleased to report that a settlement has been reached regarding the lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) concerning the T. Don Hutto Family Residential Facility in Taylor, Texas.

Since opening the facility, ICE continues to improve Hutto ensuring that the facilities' residents are detained in an environment appropriate for both parents and children. Indeed, ICE had already implemented many of the modifications contained in the final agreement. For example, ICE's Office of Detention and Removal already monitors each detainee's removal proceeding to ensure that each detainee spends the minimum number days in ICE's custody.

Family detention remains an important component of the Department of Homeland Security's "catch and remove" policy. Keeping families together through the removal process ensures that illegal alien children remain with parents, their best caregivers. In addition, ICE's family detention program serves as an effective deterrent to families who risk the dangerous journey to the United States.

ICE also welcomes the periodic review of the Hutto facility by U.S. Magistrate Judge Austin. Although ICE conducts periodic reviews of all the detention facilities it uses, Magistrate Austin's participation in these reviews will help improve communication about the facility and end any misconceptions and allegations falsely made about the Hutto facility. The Hutto facility is a safe and healthy environment for children and adults. All its residents are treated with dignity and respect.

ICE will continue to enforce the immigration and customs laws of the United States. And we will continue do so in a humane and responsible manner, using detention facilities such as T. Don Hutto.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

ICE