

Amerman

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

June 4, 1945

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE No. 130 (Revised)

Subject: Relocation of Unattached Children and Youth Under 18 Years of Age

Distribution: A

There are some instances where it will be necessary for minor children or youth to relocate without their parent or guardian. Usually the children will be in one of the following three groups: I. Children whose parents desire that they continue their education or work in a city other than that in which the parents live. II. Children whose future security and adjustment calls for a separation from the family group. III. Orphans or unattached children who have no foster parents or legal guardian.

A. PLANS FOR CHILDREN 16 YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER

Inasmuch as WRA relocation centers are scheduled to close by December 31, 1945, it is not feasible for WRA to sign agreements with individual states concerning the importation of minor children. WRA has a continuing responsibility, however, to see that such children are not aided to relocate to states having laws governing importation of children unless the state to which they are going has agreed to accept them. The following procedure should be observed:

1. No unattached person 16 years of age or under (except students accepted for enrollment at a college or university) shall be given a relocation assistance grant to go to any state except his state of legal residence unless the advance approval of the District Relocation Officer has been obtained. This should apply even where the evacuee, his family or an interested individual has worked out a relocation plan. The majority of states have laws relating to the importation of minor children or the placement of such children in foster homes, or both, and the Relocation Officer's approval will, consequently, depend upon the requirements of the state statutes.
2. When an unattached evacuee 16 years of age or under desires to relocate to a state other than his state of legal residence, the relocation summary should provide the District Relocation Officer with as much information as possible about the individual's family and educational background, social adjustment in his home and community prior to evacuation, adjustment in school and community life in the center, attitude toward relocation, parents' or relatives' attitude toward the child's relocation, a definite statement as to legal guardianship or parentage, state and county of legal residence, financial resources available to the resettler, and the plan for relocation. It should also contain any other pertinent information which has been secured in the center by the Welfare Section or from

agencies outside of the center. Such cases should ordinarily be handled by the District Relocation Officer in the same way as any case where advance arrangements are necessary, and should be submitted to the Area Relocation Adjustment Adviser as a dependency case under cover of a Form WRA-390 only when there is likely to be a need for continuing public assistance in the new community.

3. In all cases where an unattached evacuee 16 years of age or under is planning to relocate in a given community, the District Relocation Officer should advise the local public agency. If foster home or other home placement is desired, arrangements shall be made with the appropriate private or public welfare agency which investigates and licenses suitable foster homes. The placing agency should be supplied with all the necessary information which the Relocation Officer has been able to secure which would be helpful in making a suitable home placement. The same information should be furnished to the local agency where any types of home placement (including wage home) is contemplated.
4. In states where the statutes provide for execution of an agreement in all cases where minors are imported into the state, an agreement should be negotiated between a recognized child placement agency in the state of relocation and the appropriate agency in the minor's state of legal residence. WRA may offer assistance in making such arrangements, but the placement agency should use normal interstate channels in securing such agreements. If further information is needed in regard to the child's background, it may be secured from the Welfare Section at the center.
5. The District Relocation Officer shall advise the center that an unattached evacuee 16 years of age or under may relocate with a relocation grant in all cases where:
 - a. The local or state public agency approves the plan for minor's relocation and finds that a signed agreement is not required.
 - b. A state requirement for an executed agreement has been fulfilled by obtaining such an agreement from the minor's state of legal residence.
6. If an unattached child or a child unaccompanied by a responsible relative leaves the center without a previously approved relocation plan, the center shall notify the appropriate Area Relocation Office, with a copy to the District Relocation Officer. In such cases the Area Relocation Adjustment Adviser will report to the proper state and county agencies that the minor has entered the community without financial help from WRA. The following information is to be provided:
 - a. Name and age of child.
 - b. County and state of legal residence.

- c. Pre-evacuation address.
- d. Name and address of person with whom the child expects to live.
- e. The parents or legal guardians - their names and addresses.
- f. Any other available data about plans relating to the child's relocation.

In view of the decision made by the Supreme Court in the Endo case, unattached youths 16 years of age and under wishing to relocate without being accompanied by a responsible relative cannot be refused leave from the center if the War Department has not designated them ineligible for relocation. However, WRA has a responsibility to advise them concerning the procedure for proper placement. They and their family members should be advised to consult the Welfare Section regarding state laws governing interstate placement of children. Such children should be strongly urged not to leave the center until an approved relocation plan has been developed.

B. RELOCATION OF YOUTH 17 YEARS OLD AND OVER

Evacuees 17 years of age and over are eligible for relocation assistance grants on the same basis as other evacuees, without the necessity of having their plan given prior approval by a Relocation Officer. However, relocation plans for youth of 17, wherever possible should include provision for some guidance in the new community either from school or college authorities, a social agency such as public and private welfare agencies, YWCA, YMCA, church groups, older brother or sister or other responsible relative. The object of this is to safeguard the youth against possible exploitation due to inexperience and to assure that he is starting out in the community under favorable auspices. The extent of the guidance needed will necessarily vary, depending on the youth's maturity, his past experience, and situation to which he is going.

This supersedes Administrative Notice No. 130, dated July 28, 1944.

D.S. Myer
Director