

Detained Unaccompanied Children - VTC Court Observation - By Shelter

Shelter Name: _____ Legal Service Provider: _____

Observer's Name: _____ Date & Docket Time: _____

Time Observed: _____ AM/PM to _____ AM/PM Judge: _____

DHS attorney (TA): _____ Hearing Location: Houston, TX Atlanta, GA

If it's helpful for your notes, draw a quick sketch of what you see in the hearing room.

- Who is in the courtroom where you are located? Judge, interpreter, court clerk, government attorney (TA), legal service provider attorney, children in proceedings? Where is everyone seated? Note on the diagram below.
- Where is the TV located?
- Where is the camera located?

Judge's Bench

Desk

Desk

Gallery

GROUP HEARINGS	
<p>Did the judge ask what language the children understand best? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Preferred language? <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>Interpreter? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> By Phone <input type="checkbox"/> In Person</p> <p>Legal Service Provider Attorney Name: _____</p> <p>Is the attorney appearing <input type="checkbox"/> By Phone <input type="checkbox"/> In Person <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>Is the attorney appearing as Friend of Court? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>OR is the attorney appearing as an attorney for the child? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Did the attorney object to the use of video teleconference? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Did the attorney file a motion related to video teleconference? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, what type of motion(s)? _____</p> <p>Is Young Center Child Advocate involved? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p> <p>Hearing Type: Circle Selection.</p> <p>1st Master Subsequent Master Other</p> <p>If known, which # is this?</p>	<p>Other notes on use of VTC (technological issues, delays, confusion, etc.):</p>

ADVISALS

Did the judge give advisals in a group hearing? Yes No
 (Note: there is space below for notes per individual child if needed.)

Mark X if applies	Advisals given by Immigration Judge (IJ) (Note: This is a partial list of advisals the judge is required to give.)	Additional Questions & Notes
	IJ verifying service of the Notice to Appear (NTA).	
	IJ marking the NTA as an exhibit.	
	IJ explaining the address change reporting requirement to the children.	
	IJ explaining the consequences of failing to appear at a future hearing.	
	IJ explaining right to counsel at no expense to the government.	
	IJ asking if the children wish to have more time to find an attorney.	

Was each advisal given interpreted? Yes No
Did the children respond affirmatively or negatively that they understood? Responded: Yes No
Could you see the children who were responding? Yes No **Why/why not?**
Could you tell if all children responded? Yes No **Why/why not?**

NEXT STEPS FOR THE CASE

Did the IJ set a filing deadline? Yes No **Deadline Date?** _____
Did the IJ grant a continuance? Yes No **Next court Date?** _____
How many continuances have been given? _____ **Reason for continuance?** _____
Did the IJ set another master calendar hearing (MCH)? Yes No **Date?** _____
What is purpose of hearing? _____
Did the IJ set an individual calendar hearing (ICH)? Yes No **Date?** _____

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

NOTES

Did the judge ask if the children understood the process? Yes No

Did it seem like any of the children were confused or unclear about the process? Yes No Unknown

Was anything about the process unclear (or could have been unclear to a child respondent)? Yes No

Did you notice if, or have reason to believe that any of the children were overwhelmed or affected by trauma? Yes No

Generally, how was the demeanor and attitude of the judge towards the children?

Did anything seem surprising, odd, or of particular noteworthiness?

Other Observations/Notes:



INDIVIDUAL CHILD'S HEARING

Respondent Child's Initials: _____ **Last 3 A#:** _____
Child's Age? _____ **Country:** _____
 Male Female Trans/Nonbinary
Preferred language? Spanish English Indigenous: _____
 Other: _____ Judge didn't ask
Interpreter? Yes No By Phone In Person

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Did the IJ grant a continuance?
 Yes No **Next Court?** _____
Reason for continuance?

Did the IJ set another MCH?
 Yes No **Date?** _____
What is purpose of hearing?

Did the IJ set an ICH?
 Yes No **Date?** _____
OTHER NOTES ON USE OF VTC:

APPLICATION (RELIEF): Circle all that apply.

Contesting NTA	Asylum/WH/CAT I-589 App filed with USCIS? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	SIJS I-360	VAWA I-360	U Visa I-918	VD
	What basis?	Date filed with USCIS? USCIS interview? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No App filed w/ court? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Status?	T Visa I-914	

CHILD SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS

NOTES

Did the judge ask if the child understood the process? Yes No
 Did the child ask the judge any questions? Yes No
 Did it seem like the child was confused or unclear about the process? Yes No Unknown
 Was anything about the process unclear (or could have been unclear to a child respondent)? Yes No
 Did you notice if, or have reason to believe that the child was overwhelmed or affected by trauma? Yes No
 Generally, how was the demeanor and attitude of the judge towards the child?

 Did anything seem surprising, odd, or of particular noteworthiness?

 Did the judge place the child under oath and ask any questions?
 Yes No If yes, please describe the Q&A or any VTC issues.

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 Did anything seem surprising, odd, or of particular noteworthiness?

 Did the judge place the child under oath and ask any questions?
 Yes No If yes, please describe the Q&A or any VTC issues.

 Other Observations/Notes:



INDIVIDUAL CHILD'S HEARING

Respondent Child's Initials: _____ **Last 3 A#:** _____
Child's Age? _____ **Country:** _____
 Male Female Trans/Nonbinary
Preferred language? Spanish English Indigenous: _____
 Other: _____ Judge didn't ask
Interpreter? Yes No By Phone In Person

Legal Service Provider Attorney Name: _____
Is the attorney appearing By Phone In Person Other: _____

Is the attorney appearing as Friend of Court? Yes No
OR is the attorney appearing as an attorney for the child? Yes No

Did the attorney object to the use of video teleconference? Yes No
Did the attorney file a motion related to video teleconference? Yes No
If yes, what type of motion(s)? _____
Is Young Center Child Advocate involved? Yes No Unsure
Hearing Type: Circle Selection.
 1st Master Subsequent Master Other
 If known, which # is this?

NEXT STEPS FOR CASE
Did the IJ set a filing deadline?
 Yes No **Deadline?** _____
Did the IJ grant a continuance?
 Yes No **Next Court?** _____
Reason for continuance?

Did the IJ set another MCH?
 Yes No **Date?** _____
What is purpose of hearing?

Did the IJ set an ICH?
 Yes No **Date?** _____

OTHER NOTES ON USE OF VTC:

APPLICATION (RELIEF): Circle all that apply.

Contesting NTA	Asylum/WH/CAT I-589 App filed with USCIS? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	SIJS I-360	VAWA I-360	U Visa I-918	VD
	What basis?	Date filed with USCIS? USCIS interview? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No App filed w/ court? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Status?	T Visa I-914	
		Date granted?			

CHILD SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS

NOTES

Did the judge ask if the child understood the process? Yes No
 Did the child ask the judge any questions? Yes No
 Did it seem like the child was confused or unclear about the process? Yes No Unknown
 Was anything about the process unclear (or could have been unclear to a child respondent)? Yes No
 Did you notice if, or have reason to believe that the child was overwhelmed or affected by trauma? Yes No
 Generally, how was the demeanor and attitude of the judge towards the child?

 Did anything seem surprising, odd, or of particular noteworthiness?

 Did the judge place the child under oath and ask any questions?
 Yes No If yes, please describe the Q&A or any VTC issues.

 Other Observations/Notes:

