



DETENTION OF CHILDREN SEEKING ASYLUM IN CANADA

Children seeking protection in Canada, unaccompanied or with family members, may be detained under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. Detention usually takes place in immigration holding centers. The best interests of the child should always be conducted prior to a detention order to decide what alternatives are warranted.

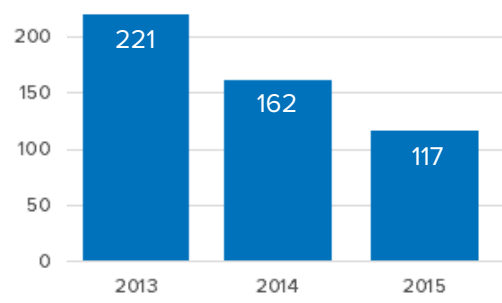
CANADIAN LAW

Children should be detained as a **measure of last resort** after their **best interests** have been taken into account.

GROUND FOR IMMIGRATION DETENTION UNDER CANADIAN LAW INCLUDE:

- Unlikely to appear for required legal process in Canada or at the time of removal from Canada;
- Inability to establish identity; and
- Inadmissibility on grounds of security/danger to the public or serious criminality.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN DETAINED



Source: Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)

CONSIDERATIONS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DETAINING CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE:

- availability of alternative arrangements with local child care or child protection services;
- availability of services in detention facility, such as education, counselling, recreation;
- anticipated length of detention;
- accommodation separating children from adult detainees who are not legally responsible for them; and
- risk of continued control by human smugglers or traffickers.



A total of **153 children** (with their parents or guardians) and **11 unaccompanied children** were detained over the last year in Canada.

Source: Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)