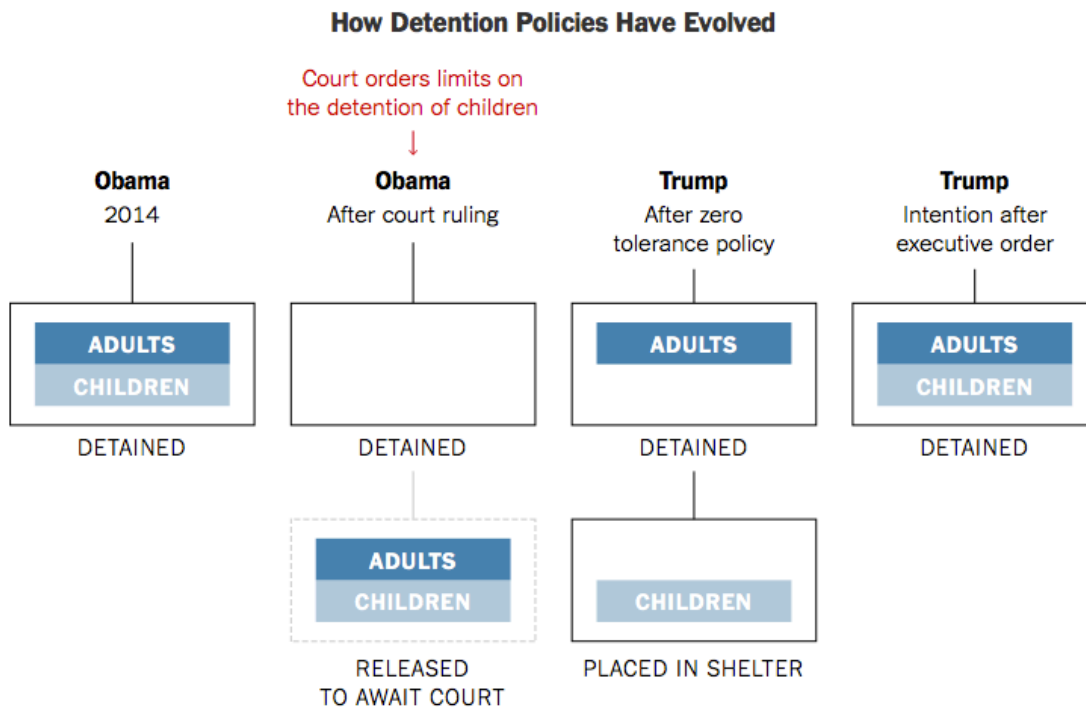


## How Trump's Policy Change Separated Migrant Children From Their Parents

By **SARAH ALMUKHTAR**, **TROY GRIGGS** and **KAREN YOURISH**

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After weeks of separating children and parents who illegally enter the United States, President Trump [signed an executive order](#) on Wednesday that seeks to allow him to indefinitely detain families together in federal custody. Families were detained together under the Obama administration before a court ruled that children could not be kept long term.

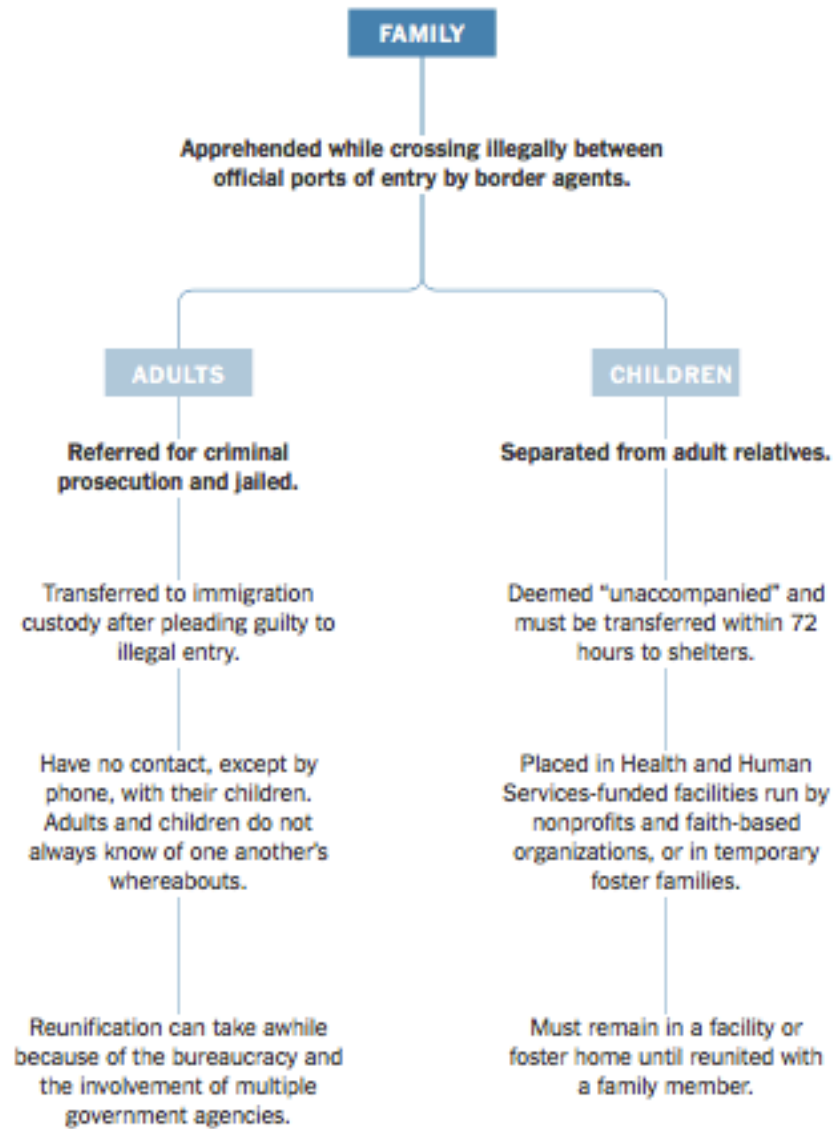


Note: Under the Obama administration, after the court order, some families were detained briefly before being released.

After the court ruling, an exception was effectively made for unauthorized immigrants who arrived with children. Adults would be released from detention while waiting for their cases to be processed.

This spring, the Trump administration [imposed a policy](#) of prosecuting all people who illegally cross the United States border with Mexico. Because of the ruling prohibiting children from being indefinitely detained, [more than 2,300 children](#) were separated from their parents and other adults from May 5 to June 9.

Here's the procedure that has been followed at the border under Mr. Trump, before Wednesday's order:



Sources: Women's Refugee Commission, National Immigrant Justice Center

Miriam Jordan contributed reporting.