



**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SACRAMENTO, CA** — The California Attorneys for Criminal Justice (CACJ), a statewide association of criminal defense attorneys in private practice and public defender offices, issues the following statement against President Trump's policy to separate and incarcerate children:

CACJ is appalled that the President of the United States of America has singularly initiated a so-called "zero tolerance" policy that has resulted in the mass separation and incarceration of children as young as five. This policy is unnecessary and inhumane. The President's abhorrent policy undermines the fundamental principles of human rights and America's democratic principles.

Ripping children from the arms of their mothers is never acceptable. Not just as lawyers but as decent moral human beings, California Attorneys for Criminal Justice condemns this action of the Trump administration. As experts on the criminal justice system, we have never seen children incarcerated and held in makeshift jails under similar circumstances.

The architect of this inhumane policy was Stephen Miller as clearly demonstrated by the New York Times in its June 17, 2018 story. It is of no small point that Miller is the driving force behind this policy. Separating children from their parents was a policy and practice of the Nazis in a past era. Miller has called this policy a "a simple decision." I'm sure Goebells and Himmler thought the same. Of all people, Miller should know better but his history going back to high school shows that he does not.

Experts in science and medicine now agree based on strong evidence, that early childhood trauma such as separation from one's parents results in lifelong negative effects on the children, including social, educational, relationship and criminal behavior. These children will be forever scarred by what is happening to them today. Regrettably they will become our future clients.

Nor can we let inaccurate citations to the Bible go without correction. Attorney General Sessions cited Romans 13 for his justification for locking up children, so the government could prosecute a mother and/or father for a misdemeanor. What he left out of his reference to Romans 13 was the passage seven paragraphs below that implores the reader as follows: "Owe no man anything; but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."

For the last 45 years, since CACJ was founded, we have fulfilled the law. By condemning the current administration policy, we remain true to our promise.

Steven Rease, President  
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice

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*California Attorneys for Criminal Justice membership includes both attorneys and associated professionals throughout California and in other states. Through its membership, CACJ continues to be the only statewide association of its kind in the country. CACJ works to defend the rights of persons as guaranteed by the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of California and other applicable law, preserve due process and equal protection of the law for the benefit of all persons, enhance the ability of its members to discharge their professional responsibilities through educational programs, publications and mutual assistance, and protect and foster the independence of the criminal defense lawyer and to improve the quality of the administration of criminal law.*