

Appleseed This Week

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A nonprofit network of 16 public interest justice centers in the U.S. and Mexico, Appleseed is dedicated to building a society in which opportunities are genuine, access to justice is universal and equal, and government advances the public interest.

MANUAL TOPICS

Powers of Attorney

Collecting Unpaid Wages

Managing, Accessing
& Closing Bank Accounts

Taking Cash Across the
Border

Selling a Car

Protecting Financial & Family Rights

The Washington Post reported this week that [deportations have risen markedly over the past two years](#), with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) expecting to deport about 400,000 people in 2010. Given the fear and confusion bound up in the deportation process, Appleseed has been working to protect the financial and family rights of deportees, many of whom are not aware these rights even exist.

Contrary to common perception, U.S. courts have held repeatedly that deportation is not a punishment but a remedial measure, meaning deportees do not forfeit the assets they have built up in the United States or child custody rights.

Appleseed, in an effort to help vulnerable families manage this difficult process, recently published "[Protecting Assets & Child Custody in the Face of Deportation](#)," a manual that has been distributed nationwide to immigration attorneys, pro bono practitioners, nonprofit organizations, foreign embassies and consulates, banks and credit unions, and advocates for immigrant rights.

"It's very important for people to understand that deportation is not punitive," said Appleseed Executive Director Betsy Cavendish. "When deported, immigrants lose their right to remain in the country, not their savings or property or children."

Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and supported by pro bono partners Skadden Arps and DLA Piper, the manual guides volunteer lawyers and non-lawyer practitioners through important rights threatened by the deportation process, specifically addressing the issues listed in the sidebar to the left.

Along with its many other supporters in the legal and nonprofit communities, Appleseed thanks immigration attorney Paul

Residential Leases

Home Ownership

**Dissolving or Selling a
Business**

Credit Card Debt

**Social Security & Veterans
Benefits**

Tax Filing Issues

**Assets & Benefits of
Minor Children**

Child Custody

Parsons, who has shared the manual with more than 11,000 members of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Meanwhile, financial institutions, embassies and consulates, and pro bono networks also are helping to distribute the manual.

"I cannot express to you how timely and important this guide is," said James P. Maloney, chairman of Mitchell Bank. "We are already moving this to all necessary parties and agencies as well as distributing through our lobby and customer service representative."

As the federal government undertakes immigration reform efforts, Appleseed will continue to distribute the manual. For more information, please contact Annette LoVoi, director of Appleseed's Financial Access and Asset Building program, at alovoi@appleseednetwork.org.