



June 26, 2018

**ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN FILES MULTISTATE LAWSUIT CHALLENGING FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION'S FAMILY SEPARATION POLICY**

***President's June 20 Executive Order Does Not Fix Unlawful & Cruel Policy***

**Chicago** — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today filed a multistate lawsuit challenging the federal administration's policy of forced family separation on the U.S. southern border. A total of 17 states and the District of Columbia joined the lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.

"The federal government's separation of children from their parents at the southern border is an atrocity that has already had profound consequences for families in search of a better and safer life," Madigan said. "The inhumane and illegal separation of families must end and all of the impacted children must be reunited with their parents."

The [lawsuit](#) alleges the federal administration has violated the constitutional due process rights of parents and children attempting to enter the U.S. by separating them as a matter of course and without any finding that the parent poses a threat to the children. The policy is also irrationally discriminatory, in violation of the constitutional guarantee of equal protection, because it targets only people crossing our southern border, and not anyone crossing the northern border or entering the U.S. elsewhere. Madigan and the other attorneys general also argue that this policy violates the Administrative Procedure Act, because it is arbitrary and capricious, and that the federal administration has been violating U.S. asylum laws by turning people away at ports of entry.

Joining Madigan in filing the lawsuit are the attorneys general of California, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.

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