

## Maria and Ruby

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Maria and Ruby are two minors aged 2 and 3 who were detained by Border Patrol at the International Border in Calexico, California. Their mother, Ana lives in Calexico, CA, the border town which is directly across from the border. Ana was traveling with Maria and Ruby in the car when she was stopped and discovered to have 3 kilograms of methamphetamine in the car. The children live in Calexico with their mother, but visit Mexicali frequently and stay with their father. When pressed by the Border Patrol, Ana said that she was given \$500 to transport the drugs to a contact in El Centro, CA. (A town 35 minutes north of the border.) Ana identified the alleged father as Tom Riddle, who lives in Mexicali, Baja California,<sup>1</sup> Mexico. The social worker has called Tom, who indicates that he due to a prior crossing, he cannot cross the border at this time, and had no idea his wife was transporting drugs. He verified that he is the father of the children and he and Ana are married. He also indicated to the social worker that he would like an attorney to represent him, but has no money to hire one. Neither Tom nor Ana speak English. Ana indicates to the social worker that she has three relatives to consider. Albus, the children's maternal Uncle who lives in Phoenix Arizona; Harry a maternal Uncle who lives in Hermosillo, Mexico, and Dan a maternal cousin who lives in San Diego, California. The father indicated that he has no relatives willing to accept placement, although he would like placement of the children.

- **Who needs to be noticed and how?**
- **How should the court and Department proceed?**
- **What orders does the court need to make regarding jurisdiction at the detention hearing?**

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<sup>1</sup> Mexico is divided into 32 states. The northern and westernmost state abutting California and Arizona is Baja California. The capital of Baja California is Mexicali, adjacent to the City of Calexico.