# AMERICAN BABY TAKEN INTO GUATEMALAN CUSTODY AND HOSPITALIZED LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AFTER LEAVING U.S. WITH MOTHER ONCE CHARGED WITH HER ATTEMPTED MURDER

**Kentucky foster family questions why U.S. Embassy refuses to advocate for the return of the 15-month-old American citizen.**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (November 6, 2026)** — A **15-month-old American citizen born in Louisville, Kentucky**, has remained hospitalized in Guatemala since October 30, when Guatemalan child-protection authorities took her into custody. Her former foster family and loved ones express **profound disappointment in the lack of U.S. government advocacy for her protection and safe return**.

According to former Kentucky foster father **Caleb Yeske**, the **U.S. Embassy in Guatemala has said it will remain neutral, defer to Guatemala's Procuraduría General de la Nación (PGN), and will not advocate for a particular outcome**. PGN is Guatemala's child-protection authority, comparable to U.S. child protective services. The family asks why Washington has not directed more active protection for this **U.S. citizen**.

## A controversial Kentucky reunification

T.R. entered Kentucky protective custody after suffering serious injuries shortly after her August 2, 2025 birth. Her mother, **Marleny Reynoso**, was initially charged with attempted murder and other offenses arising from the case; she eventually pleaded guilty to **second-degree wanton endangerment** and received a **340-day jail sentence**, with credit for time served. Yeske and his partner raised T.R. from approximately 13 days old for about 13 months. During that time, she had no contact with her mother.

After Reynoso completed her sentence and faced deportation, **Jefferson Family Court Judge Angela Johnson ordered reunification** with the mother, despite opposition to immediate reunification from Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services. The foster family questioned the absence of verified safety arrangements in Guatemala. **Attorney General Russell Coleman supported emergency preservation of her foster placement.** The Kentucky Supreme Court accepted the brief but denied emergency relief because the foster parents had not shown error in the appellate ruling that they lacked standing to intervene; the Court did not decide the merits of the family's safety objections.

On **September 17, 2026**, T.R. left the United States with her mother for Guatemala, a country where the child had never lived. **Her mother was deported; T.R., a U.S. citizen, was not.** She was removed from the only established home and caregivers she had known. The case has added to public calls for greater scrutiny of Kentucky's family courts.

**Yeske also questions how this American child was allowed to depart without a U.S. passport.**

## From a planned return home to an unexplained hospitalization

Less than six weeks after the move, T.R.'s mother asked Yeske to travel to Guatemala, resume caring for the child, and bring her back to the United States. On October 27, the mother executed Guatemalan notarized documents authorizing Yeske to care for T.R. and travel with her to the United States; a power of attorney was registered October 28. Yeske was pursuing the American child's passport when PGN intervened on **October 30**.

**T.R. has remained hospitalized continuously since PGN took her into its care on October 30.** Yeske says he has received no explanation of the reason for her continued hospitalization, her medical condition, or treatment. **According to Guatemalan legal counsel retained by Yeske**, she faces a significant possibility of placement in a children's institution upon discharge because family-based foster options are limited. At a November 4 hearing, her proceedings were transferred to a national children's court in El Quiché. The foster family fears her history, caregiver bonds and the mother's signed documents have not been adequately considered.

## The family demands more than neutrality from the United States

**The central question for the foster family is why an American citizen with a documented child-protection history can remain hospitalized in foreign protective custody while her own government reportedly refuses to advocate for an outcome.** Yeske and T.R.'s loved ones acknowledge that Guatemala has its own courts and authority over children within its borders. They are not asking U.S. officials to disregard Guatemalan law. They are asking the State Department to use available diplomatic and consular channels to protect an American child, obtain answers about her welfare, and pursue a **safe and lawful pathway back to the United States**.

The State Department's own **Foreign Affairs Manual, 7 FAM 1720**, recognizes that serious child-protection cases involving U.S. citizens abroad may warrant strong representations to foreign authorities, inquiries into a child's welfare, coordination with American child-protection resources, and assistance with repatriation. The family is therefore seeking immediate supervisory review of the embassy's reported position rather than accepting neutrality as the final answer. These procedures do not guarantee custody or removal from Guatemala; they do establish avenues for more active engagement.

> **"This is a 15-month-old American citizen. She was born here, raised here, and spent almost her entire life in Kentucky custody. Her own government should be advocating for her protection and helping determine how she can safely come home—not simply standing aside." — Caleb Yeske**

## Yeske questions Kentucky's continuing jurisdiction

**Does Jefferson Family Court still have authority to consider T.R.'s safety and best interests?** Yeske questions whether Kentucky retains **exclusive, continuing jurisdiction** over custody determinations under the **Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA)**, including KRS 403.824. T.R. spent nearly her entire life in Kentucky protective custody; her longtime caregivers and much of her medical and child-protection history remain in Kentucky. Now, only weeks after Judge Angela Johnson ordered reunification, T.R. is hospitalized in the custody of another country's child-protection agency. **Yeske believes these extraordinary new circumstances warrant an answer about whether the Kentucky court that ordered her reunification still has a lawful role in protecting her.** Although he has raised the question with attorneys, he has not received a clear answer or identified a way to put it before the court.

The family also wants clarification about the proceedings in El Quiché, including whether local customary practices might affect the court's approach. The receiving children's court is part of Guatemala's national judiciary; the family's concern is that T.R.'s individual safety, prior protective history and established relationships receive full consideration regardless of venue.

## A public plea for help: T.R. needs more than sympathy

**Yeske, T.R.'s former foster family and her loved ones are making an urgent public plea for help.** They ask anyone with direct access to senior State Department officials, congressional offices, or attorneys experienced in international child protection, consular advocacy or Kentucky custody law to step forward. They seek an immediate consular welfare assessment and verified medical information; meaningful U.S. advocacy with PGN; full consideration of T.R.'s Kentucky child-protection history, established caregiver relationships and the mother's signed documents; a safe family-based placement instead of institutional care; and every lawful option for her return to the United States. **They are not asking anyone to circumvent Guatemalan law. They are asking the American government to act on behalf of an American child.**

Yeske has personally incurred substantial travel and legal expenses in Guatemala. Friends and family have organized a fund to assist with legal and travel costs. **Anyone who can offer a direct introduction, relevant legal expertise, or meaningful assistance is urged to contact Caleb Yeske at lopezyeske1001@gmail.com.**

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**Public reference documents:** Kentucky Supreme Court order · KRS 403.824 · KRS 403.806 · 7 FAM 1720 · CBP travel documents