

# Restrictive Language on I-94s issued to Certain Haitians

## Policy Letter 16-03

Publication Date: October 2, 2015

**Topics:** [Benefits](#)

**Types:** [Policy & Guidance](#)

**October 1, 2015**

The purpose of this Letter is to inform ORR grantees and service providers about language that appears on I-94s issued to certain Haitians paroled by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and to advise on proper handling of such cases.

### **Background**

ICE has issued I-94s to certain Haitians that indicate parole, but which also contain the following machine-printed language:

“This form does not convey authorization to receive any type of public benefit.”

### **Discussion**

A Haitian with a current or expired parole meets the definition of Haitian Entrant and is eligible for ORR benefits and services the same as a refugee.<sup>1</sup> An I-94 of a Haitian that indicates a current or expired parole is documentary evidence of Haitian Entrant status. The presence on the I-94 of the language cited above does not alter or override ORR’s regulations or guidance. **Such language does not invalidate the I-94 indicating parole as documentation nor does it render the paroled Haitian ineligible for ORR benefits and services.**

If you have any questions about this Letter, please contact Thomas Pabst at 202.401.5398 or by email at [Thomas.Pabst@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Thomas.Pabst@acf.hhs.gov)

For additional information about documentation for ORR benefits, please see State Letters [10-03](#), [1-22](#), and [PL16-01](#).

Robert Carey, Director  
Office of Refugee Resettlement

---

Footnote

1. See Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, title V, Pub. L. 96-422, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1522 note) and 45 CFR §400.43(a), 45 CFR §401.2.