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**CONSULADO DE
MÉXICO EN BOISE**

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Repatriation of the minor María Ramírez to Mexico

The Consulate of Mexico in Boise informs that on Monday January 20, 2012, Maria Ramirez, a minor, was repatriated in collaboration with Child Protection Services of Idaho, in order to reunify the child with her father, Jesus Ramirez.

On August 2010, Jesus Ramirez, who resides in Mexico, petitioned the support of the Consulate of Mexico in Boise in order to obtain full custody of her daughter, which was previously suspended by a judge of the Third Judicial District of the State of Idaho. In response, this Consular Office referred Mr. Ramírez with attorney Jayme Beaver, who was then part of the Consulate's External Legal Assistance Program (PALE).

Ms. Beaver filed an appeal before the Supreme Court of Idaho, who on April 25, 2012, overturned the District Court's decision and reinstated his parental rights over her daughter. As a result, the District Judge signed the authorization that allowed the repatriation of Maria Ramirez.

In its decision, the Supreme Court stated that Mr. Ramirez could not be accused of abandoning the child because he did not have an immigration permit to enter the country and be by her side. The Court also mentioned that the fact that a child may enjoy a higher standard of living in the United States than in the country where the child's parent resides is not a reason to terminate the parental rights of a foreign national who lives outside of the United States.

The decision sets forth an important precedent for similar cases in Idaho and strengthens the judicial framework which allows non-citizen parents to continue enjoying their parental rights, given that it assures that they will continue to be in place, with no regards of their nationality and place of residence.

The Consulate of Mexico in Boise welcomes that, with the involvement of various State authorities, the superior interest of Maria Ramirez prevailed and family reunification was achieved. This Consular Representation renews its commitment of advocating in favor of the interests of Mexican citizens residing



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in its circumscription, with no regards to their immigration status; for which it will continue to strengthen its institutional relationship with authorities of all levels, including Child Protection Services of Idaho.

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