Ramona G. Espinoza was born in San Dimas, California in 1926. In 1932 Ramona was six years old and her mother, Felicitas Castro, had resided legally in California for 11 years. They lived in the Belvedere Gardens area of East Los Angeles, when her mother, Felicitas Castro, and her four American-born children were unconstitutionally deported by the US government.

Ramona G. Espinoza and her family spent a year in her mother’s village in Sinaloa. In 1933, her mother, Felicitas Castro, travelled north with her children in an attempt to reunite them with their father who had remained in Los Angeles. Her American-born children, however, were refused re-entry into the country of their birth by the US Immigration Department and so the family was stranded in Mexicali, Baja California, where they had no relatives. In Mexicali, Ramona was only able to complete six years of an education. She was such a good student, she was awarded a scholarship to study medicine in Mexico City, but in 1942, at the age of 16, she began to work in the agricultural fields of the Imperial Valley to help feed her younger brother and sisters. In 1943, she was recruited to work in the canneries in Northern California, so from 1942 to 1948 she worked in the agricultural fields and canneries of Northern and Southern California to provide for her family’s sustenance in Mexicali.

In 1948, Ramona married Arturo O. Espinoza in Mexicali, Baja California. He was also born in California in 1924 and he and his family had also been unconstitutionally deported to Mexico. In 1948, soon after their wedding, Ramona G. Espinoza and her husband moved back to the United States. In 1949, they had their first child in the Cypress, California and altogether they had four American-born children, 11 grandchildren, four great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Ramona G. Espinoza has participated in workshops, presentations, interviews etc. on the “Unconstitutional Repatriation of Mexicans and Mexican Americans During the Great Depression” for over twelve years in the hopes that what happened to her mother and her family is not forgotten and is never repeated.