

A Family For Every Child

Matching Assistance



*"We should not be asking who this child belongs to,
but who belongs to this child."*

ICPC & Interstate Adoptions



The purpose of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is to establish rules and procedures for the placement of children across state lines. The Compact ensures that a child is placed in a suitable environment; that the child is receiving necessary services in their new state; that state adoption laws are being followed; and that the child is protected at all times.

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are members of the AAICPC.

How the ICPC Process Works

The following is a general outline for how the ICPC process works:

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When ICPC Applies

ICPC applies in the following situations:

- A child in the care or custody of the state is placed in another state with a relative, foster family, or adoptive family;
- A child is placed in another state for the

1. The child's caseworker sends a referral to the ICPC office
2. The ICPC office reviews the referral packet and sends it to the receiving state (the state where the adoptive parents live)
3. The receiving state completes the home study and approves/denies placement, then sends decision back to sending state (the child's state) ICPC office
4. ICPC office documents placement decision and informs caseworker

Processing times can vary from state-to-state. Federal law requires that a complete home study and written report is provided to the sending state (the child's state) within 60-days of a placement request. This does not mean that approval or denial will be given within 60 days, however. For more information on processing times for specific states, please visit the [ICPC State Pages](#) site and select the state you would like more information about.

Common ICPC Terms

Adoption Assistance - Financial assistance provided to the adoptive parent's to help meet the child(ren)'s special needs

Compact Administrator - The individual(s) who are designated to have responsibility for administration for ICAMA

ICAMA - Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance. Ensures that children who are adopted by a family in another state or move with their adoptive families to another state, have their adoption assistance covered. ICAMA has been adopted by 49 states and the District of Columbia.

Receiving State - The family's state; where the child is moving to

Sending State - The child's state; where the child currently lives

Title IV-E - A source of federal funding for children who meet the eligibility requirements

purposes of adoption;

- A child is placed in a residential treatment center located in another state;
- In certain circumstances , when a child is placed with their parent(s) in another state

ICPC does NOT apply in the following situations:

- A child is placed by their parent, step-parent, grandparent, adult aunt/uncle, adult sibling, or legal guardian with a relative or guardian located in another state;
- A child is placed in a psychiatric institution, medical facility or boarding school in another state

For more common ICPC terms, please visit the AAICAMA page [Definitions of Terms](#). For a list of frequently used acronyms, please visit the AAICAMA page [Acronyms](#).

Connect With Us!



Additional Information & Resources

AAICAMA - [FAQs on Adoption Assistance](#)

AAICAMA - [FAQs on Title XIX Medicaid and Title IV-E Adoption Assistance](#)

AAICAMA - [Fact sheet on ICAMA](#)

AAICPC - [Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children](#)

AAICPC - [ICPC FAQ](#)

Child Welfare Information Gateway - [Adoption Assistance Services Offered by State](#)

[ICPC State Pages](#) -

ICPC information for all 50 states, D.C. and the Virgin Islands

[Listening to Parents](#) -

Removing barriers preventing qualified parents from adopting from foster care

The Middletown Press - [Jeff Katz: Make interstate adoption easier](#)

[Oregon ICPC Information \[PDF\]](#) -

PPT presentation that covers the ICPC process for the state of Oregon

Univ. Michigan/Annie E. Casey Foundation - [Foster Kids in Limbo: The Effects of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children on the Permanency of Children in Foster Care](#)

Disclaimer

This information is not intended to serve as, or as a substitute for, legal advice.