

PROTECTING CHILDREN ACROSS STATE LINES

What is the ICPC?

The best place for a child might not be in their home state. The best place might be in a different state. Every child deserves the same rights when they move to another state as they have in their home state. To make sure that children are protected when they move to another state, there is the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC).

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is a contract and law in:

- All 50 states,
- the District of Columbia, and
- the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The law provides uniform guidelines and procedures. The ICPC applies in certain situations when a child is moving across state lines. If the ICPC applies, a child cannot move to another state without the approval of both states' ICPC offices.



ABOUT THE ICPC PROCESS

- The child's caseworker, attorney or adoption worker will make the request if it is needed.
- All requests must be sent to the State ICPC office.
- Each type of request has different requirements.
- When the State ICPC office receives a complete referral, it will send it to the other state.
- The other state ICPC office will make sure the placement is safe, appropriate, and in the best interests of the child.
- The other state ICPC office will then make a decision to approve or deny the placement.
- If the placement is approved by the ICPC office, the child's agency can decide if the placement will be made.

MORE INFORMATION

For additional information, you can visit the Department of Children and Families website:
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/icpc>



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

DIVISION OF SAFETY
AND PERMANENCE

THE INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN (ICPC)



ICPC Basics for Caregivers



WHY ICPC?

THE ICPC ENSURES:

- The placement is safe and good for the child.
- All laws and policies are followed before the child is moved.
- There is legal and financial protection for the child.
- There are supports and services for the child.
- The agency does not lose jurisdiction over the child once the child moves to the other state.
- The sending state will get regular reports on the child.



TIMEFRAMES

This depends on a lot of factors. Some requests, such as placement in a facility, take a few days or more. Some requests can take months to complete.

If you have questions about how long a request is taking, speak with the agency you are working with for the ICPC request.

WHAT TO EXPECT

When a child from another state might be placed in your home, you can expect:

1. The child's worker to contact you and ask you questions about your home and if you are able to care for the child.
2. The worker will decide if they will send an ICPC request.
3. If the ICPC request is made, a worker will come to your home and complete a home study.
4. The worker will make a recommendation to approve or deny placement based on the home study.
5. The ICPC Office will make the final approval or denial of the placement.
6. If you are approved, the child's caseworker will decide whether to place a child in your home.

HOME STUDY

During the home study, the worker will do the following:

- Ask you to complete paperwork about you and your home.
- Do a physical walk through and safety check of your home.
- Complete background checks.
- Interview everyone in your home. The interviews will include questions about your life, family, and caring for the child.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Be responsive when the caseworker contacts you.

Be flexible with your schedule. It will be easier for the worker to complete the home visits and interviews.

Inform your worker of any changes in your contact information.

Be patient. ICPC understands the urgency in every situation, but processes a large number of requests that take time.

Do not contact the ICPC office.

Your worker will do this. If you have questions or concerns about your case, the worker can contact the ICPC office.

PRIVATE ADOPTIONS

If you have a home study for a private adoption, your adoption agency will do the ICPC. Your home study and other information about the adoption will be submitted to the ICPC offices. The ICPC office will review the request and make a decision.