

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 9: Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC)	Effective Date: November 1, 2008
	Section 6: International Adoptions	Version: 1

POLICY	OLD POLICY: 509
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The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) requires approval by the DCS Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) Office of all foreign-born children who are waiting to be placed with and subsequently adopted by Indiana families. A home study and five (5) copies of the [ICPC Request/100A](#) must accompany the child(ren), along with three (3) identical copies of the referral packet containing:

1. Social History of the child which includes:
 - a. Pertinent history regarding birth parents;
 - b. Development information; and
 - c. Documentation of availability for adoption.

2. Medical History of the child which includes:
 - a. Physical examination within the past six (6) months;
 - b. Physical/emotional problems which might have an impact on the placement; and
 - c. The child's emotional ability to accept the adoption (if applicable).

3. Legal Documents:
 The documents must be in the native language of the country, accompanied by certified English translations
 - a. Attestation of the legal availability of the child for adoption; and
 - b. Court order of guardianship or other legal status.

4. Surety Bond of \$10,000 or letter of agency responsibility in the event of a placement disruption.

In accordance with Indiana law, a child whose adoption is finalized by an adoption decree in the country of origin is considered to be adopted. Furthermore, these children enter the United States immediately eligible to become United States citizens.

The [United States Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\)](#) may, at its discretion, require that the DCS ICPC Office approve an adoption finalized in another country. DCS will comply with the USCIS decision to review the appropriateness of the adoption and the adoptive home.

Note: Adoptive families in Lake, Porter, LaPorte, and St. Joseph counties will be referred to the Chicago ICPC Office by the Indiana ICPC Office for USCIS approval.

Code References

1. [IC 31-28-4: Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children](#)
2. [IC-31-19-28: Adoption Code](#)

PROCEDURE

For adoptions finalized outside the United States

USCIS will:

1. Notify the family of the decision to review the appropriateness of the adoption and the adoptive home; and
2. Provide the family with the DCS ICPC Office's contact information.

The family will contact the DCS ICPC Office upon receiving notification from USCIS.

The DCS ICPC Office will work with the family to coordinate all necessary action.

For adoptions finalized in the United States

The agency arranging the adoption will:

1. Assure that a home study of the adoptive parents is completed. See Related Information for details on what must be included;
2. Update the home study annually until adoption occurs;
3. Conduct all necessary background checks;
4. Complete an [ICPC Request/100A](#), if the agency is located in a state other than Indiana;
5. Submit five (5) copies of the [ICPC Request/100A](#), if applicable, and the home study to the Indiana ICPC Office; and,
6. Assure that once the adoption is completed, the appropriate information is sent to the clerk of courts in the county the family resides in, so that a new birth certificate can be prepared.

The ICPC Consultant will, within five (5) business days:

1. Review the referral and home study;
2. Determine if the referral will be approved;
3. If the referral is approved, fax a letter to USCIS, advising that the pre-adoptive requirements for the adoptive placement of the specific child have been met; or
4. If the referral is not approved, notify the agency arranging the adoption and attempt to rectify the issues.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

N/A

FORMS AND TOOLS

[ICPC Request/100A \(SF106\)](#) – Available in ICWIS

RELATED INFORMATION

ICPC Home Study Requirements

The summary must include all of the following information:

1. Responses by all adults in the proposed adoptive home to the following questions:
 - a. Have you ever been arrested?

- b. Do you have a history of substance abuse?
 - c. Do you have a history of sexual or child abuse?
 - d. Do you have a history of domestic violence?
 - e. Have you ever been rejected as a prospective adoptive parent or been the subject of an unfavorable adoptive family assessment?
2. Documentation of the following:
- a. The United States-based agency's name, or contact person; or
 - b. Agency in the foreign country coordinating the adoption;
 - c. The name of the state in which the adoption will be finalized;
 - d. The proposed adoptive parents' types and amounts of insurance policies; and
 - e. Whether the parents have health insurance that will cover the child.
3. Assessments of the following:
- a. The adoptive parents' motivation for adopting a foreign-born child;
 - b. The attitude of the adoptive family, extended adoptive family, and the community toward the parents' adoption of a child from a different race and culture;
 - c. The appropriateness of the adoptive parents' plans for preserving the child's cultural heritage and assisting the child in understanding and appreciating the child's own racial and cultural background;
 - d. How the adoptive parents plan to cope with any unanticipated behavioral and medical problems; and
 - e. The parents' financial stability, including specific income figures, total assets and liabilities.