

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 9: Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) Section 02: Request to Place a Child in Indiana	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 4

POLICY OVERVIEW

When an out-of-state agency wants to place a child in Indiana, they send the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) referral packet to the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) to decide if it is an appropriate placement.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will review all ICPC referral packets received from an out-of-state agency to make sure the following information is included:

1. A cover letter explaining why the referral is being made and any special issues to include in the home study;
2. The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Request form;
3. A written statement from the case manager about the case currently;
4. The child's social and medical history;
5. Psychological reports and any other reports from the past year;
6. Documents that show the child's legal status (e.g., wardship or custody order). If the wardship is over 12 months old, include the most recent order and the original order granting wardship;
7. A copy of the child's Case Plan/Prevention Plan; and
8. Other important records (e.g., school records, medical records, birth certificate, and Social Security card).

Note: A child from out-of-state may visit a proposed placement in Indiana. If the visit lasts longer than 30 days, though, an ICPC referral packet is required.

By federal law, DCS must finish the ICPC referral process within 60 calendar days after getting the request. To meet this deadline, the DCS local office must complete the home study within 50 calendar days of receiving the referral packet.

The DCS ICPC Office may reject or return incomplete packets after 10 business days, which may delay or deny the placement.

DCS will follow policy [9.05](#) for expedited placement requests.

If the ICPC case type changes (e.g., foster care to adoption), a new ICPC referral is required.

DCS does not require Resource and Adoptive Parent Training (RAPT) or licensure for relative placements, as defined by the sending state's law. However, if requested by the out-of-state agency, DCS will provide training or licensure.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-19-2-7.5: Submission of information, forms, or consents for criminal history check](#)
- [IC 31-19-7: Prior Approval of Placement of Child in Proposed Adoptive Home](#)
- [IC 31-28-4: Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children](#)
- [42 USC 671 \(a\) \(26\): Time Limit on Completing ICPC Studies](#)
- [ICPC Regulation No. 9](#)