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|  | <b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES</b><br><b>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>                                                  |                   |
|                                                                                   | <b>Chapter 9:</b> Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)<br><b>Section 07:</b> Private Interstate Adoptions |                   |
|                                                                                   | <b>Effective Date:</b> January 1, 2026                                                                                      | <b>Version:</b> 4 |

## POLICY OVERVIEW

*This policy does not apply to adoptions involving DCS wards or wards of other state child welfare agencies (see policies 9.01 and 9.02).*

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) requires approval from the DCS Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) Office for all private, interstate adoptions by Indiana families to make sure the prospective family is a safe placement for the child.

## POLICY STATEMENT

DCS requires written confirmation that the child is legally free for adoption before approving the ICPC adoption referral. This must include:

1. A copy of the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) court order; or
2. A copy of signed consents to adopt; and
3. Proof a Licensed Child Placing Agency (LCPA) is involved (if applicable).

**Note:** The child cannot leave the sending state until **both** the sending and receiving state ICPC offices approve of the placement, as required by the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) guidelines.

DCS will not pay any costs or fees related to private, interstate adoptions unless those costs are listed in a signed adoption assistance agreement between the adoptive parents and DCS.

For non-private, interstate adoptions, the state that had the placement and care responsibility of the child before the adoption is responsible for providing adoption assistance. This is not the responsibility of the adoptive family's state of residence.

## LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-28-4-1: Enactment; provision](#)