

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 9: Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) Section 01: Request to Place an Indiana Child in Another State	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 6

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is a legal process that allows states to place children in out-of-home care across state lines. The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) makes sure the potential placement is safe and appropriate.

POLICY STATEMENT

The ICPC process applies to four (4) types of placements:

1. Adoption, including international and private adoptions;
2. Foster care, including residential treatment;
3. Relative/kinship; and

Note: DCS will not require potential out-of-state relative/kinship placements to be licensed; however, DCS will follow the requirements of the receiving state. If licensed, a copy of the license must be sent to the DCS ICPC Unit.

4. Biological or adoptive parent.

Note: The ICPC **does not apply** if the court places the child with the biological or adoptive parent they were not removed from.

Placing a child in another state requires:

1. Identification of the out-of-state placement;
2. Submission of the ICPC referral packet;
3. Written approval from the DCS ICPC Unit and the receiving state's ICPC Office; and
4. A court order or authorization.

Note: If the court orders an Indiana child to be placed out-of-state **without approval** from the DCS ICPC Unit and the receiving state's ICPC Office (except for placement with a parent), DCS will file an objection with the court and email the ICPC mailbox.

Financial and Medical Responsibility

DCS will keep financial and medical responsibility for children placed out-of-state, including children placed in residential treatment by juvenile probation, unless jurisdiction is ended.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-10-2-2: Consideration of the best interests of the child](#)
- [IC 31-28-4: Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children](#)
- [IC 31-28-4-1: Enactment; provision](#)

- [IC 31-28-4-2: Financial responsibility for placed children](#)
- [IC 31-39-2: Persons Entitled to Access Juvenile Court Records](#)
- [ICPC Regulation No. 2 Public Court Jurisdiction Cases: Placements for Public Adoption of Foster Care in Family Settings and/or with Parents, Relatives](#)
- [ICPC Regulation No. 7 Expedited Placement Decision](#)
- [ICPC Regulation No. 9 Definition of a Visit](#)
- [45 CFR 1355.20: Definitions](#)