

 <b>INDIANA</b> DEPARTMENT OF <b>CHILD</b> SERVICES	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES</b> <b>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>	
	<b>Chapter 9:</b> Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)	<b>Effective Date:</b> May 1, 2014
	<b>Section 06:</b> International Adoptions	<b>Version:</b> 3

## STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) requires approval by the DCS Interstate Compact on 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 Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Request (100A) form must be sent to the DCS ICPC Office 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, which must be in the native language of the country, accompanied by certified English translations, which includes:
  - a. Attestation of the legal availability of the child for adoption; and
  - b. Court order of guardianship or other legal status.

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.

### Code References

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

## PROCEDURE

See Related Information for steps that occur prior to DCS ICPC Office involvement for adoptions that are finalized both in or outside the United States.

The DCS ICPC Office will work with the family to coordinate all necessary action for adoptions finalized outside the United States.

For adoptions finalized in the United States, the ICPC Consultant will, within five (5) business days of receiving the referral and home study from an outside agency:

1. Review the referral and home study;

2. Determine if the referral will be approved;
3. Email a letter to the [United States Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\)](#), advising that the prospective adoptive requirements for the adoptive placement of the specific child have been met if the referral is approved; or
4. Notify the agency arranging the adoption and attempt to rectify the issues if the referral is not approved.

## PRACTICE GUIDANCE

N/A

## FORMS AND TOOLS

[Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Request \(100A\)](#) – Available in the case management system

## RELATED INFORMATION

### **For adoptions finalized in the United States**

The agency arranging the adoption will:

1. Ensure 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 a 100A form, if the agency is located in a state other than Indiana;
5. Submit five (5) copies of the 100A form, if applicable, and the home study to the DCS ICPC Office;
6. Ensure that once the adoption is completed, the appropriate procedure is followed to ensure that a new birth certificate can be prepared; and
7. Provide verification of the child's date of birth.

### **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;
  - e. Whether the parents have health insurance that will cover the child; and
  - f. Verification of the child's date of birth.

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.