

Chapter:	Interstate Compact	
Subject:	Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children	Page 1 of 3
Approved:	Frederick M. Ober, Division Director	Effective: 7/10/00 FINAL
Supersedes:	Social Services Policy No. 181	Dated: 9/8/98

Purpose

To outline the requirements of district office staff when handling situations governed by the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

Policy

Division staff will comply with requirements of the ICPC. When services are requested by another state and approved by the DCA, the child will receive the same quality of services as a Vermont child would receive.

Homestudies by another state requested are to be completed by social work staff and not be contracted individuals or agencies. Homestudies are counted as Child Abuse and Neglect Investigations for workload purposes. Face sheets and supervisory tracking forms will be completed as usual for these cases.

Any child in custody who will be placed in a residential treatment facility out of state has a right to a court hearing of the placement. Before the placement can be approved, the worker will either:

- schedule a court hearing and obtain a signed order approving the placement; or
- obtain the signatures of the child, his or her parents, attorney and guardian-ad-litem on a Waiver of Placement (FS-255)
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Introduction

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is an agreement among the fifty states, the District of Columbia and some territories on procedures for the uniform

 VERMONT DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>181</h1>
Chapter:	Interstate Compact	
Subject:	Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children	Page 2 of 3
Approved:	Frederick M. Ober, Division Director	Effective: 7/10/00 FINAL
Supersedes:	Social Services Policy No. 181	Dated: 9/8/98

handling of:

- requests for homestudies or supervision of children in the custody of out-of-state authorities; and,
- requests for out-of-state placement and supervision of children in state's custody.

The following are general rules that apply to the ICPC:

- Since ICPC regulations are complex, the social worker should consult with Vermont's Deputy Compact Administrator (DCA) early and regularly.
- ICPC approval is required before a child in custody can be placed in another state in any setting, including with a parent or relative or in foster, pre-adoptive or residential care.
- The division continues legal and financial responsibility for children in custody placed out-of -state. This includes conducting administrative and disposition reviews, and paying for the child's support, including education, treatment, medical expenses.
- Oral and written communication with the compact administrator in another state will occur only through Vermont's DCA.
- All required documents must be sent in triplicate.
- Custody changes may be made only after discussion with the Vermont DCA.

Social Worker Tasks

A. Requests for Homestudy: Children in the Custody of Another State

- As part of the homestudy, completes and obtains family's signature on the Checklist for Care of Children in Custody (FS-326), and sends it to the Residential Licensing Unit to initiate all background checks. Notes on checklist that this is an ICPC homestudy.
- Completes homestudy, to be received by DCA within twenty-five days of the district's receipt of the request. Includes recommendation about placement and supervision of the child and rationale for recommendations. The Initial Investigative Series (FS-242 a-e) or other appropriate format may be used.
- Ensures review and signature by supervisor and district director.

 VERMONT DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>181</h1>
Chapter:	Interstate Compact	
Subject:	Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children	Page 3 of 3
Approved:	Frederick M. Ober, Division Director	Effective: 7/10/00 FINAL
Supersedes:	Social Services Policy No. 181	Dated: 9/8/98

B. Supervision of Children in Custody of Another State

- Provides ongoing casework services.
- Sends reports to the sending state quarterly, or at the interval specified on the Interstate Compact Placement Request (ICPC-100-A). After approval by supervisor, forwards to DCA.

C. Requests for Placement and Supervision of a Vermont Child in Another State

- Forwards referral packet to DCA, containing three copies of:
 - ICPC-100A (FS-100A) ICPC Placement Request
 - FS-104 Financial/Medical Plan
 - FS-105 Cover Letter
 - Custody orders
 - Disposition reports
 - Case Summary (FS-242(e))
 - Most recent case plan
 - Any pertinent medical and /or psychological reports
 - Most recent FS-201 FC/M
- If the child is to be placed in a residential treatment facility, the Waiver of Hearing form (FS-255) or court order must be sent to the DCA.
- If placement is approved, initiates supervision by receiving state by notifying the Vermont DCA of the child's placement by sending Report on Child's Placement Status (ICPC-100B).
- Communicates with worker in other state as necessary.
- Conducts required administrative and dispositional reviews.
- Notifies DCA of all status changes, such as adoption finalization, return to Vermont, case closure, using the ICPC-100B.