

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)

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WHAT IS ICPC?

- ▶ The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) regulates the placement of all child welfare-involved and domestic private adoption placements of children across state lines. 33 V.S.A. §§5901 to 5927.
- ▶ ICPC applies to foster care, kinship care (which is always licensed in Vermont, but not always in other states), parental care, conditional custody orders, residential care, and adoption (private and public).

What do we get from the Compact?

- ▶ Ensures the safety of children by:
 - ▶ Obtaining background checks on placement resources
 - ▶ Licensing and/or approving home for adoption, foster care or reunification in other states
 - ▶ Allowing children to be supervised in the home to make sure the placement is safe and stable prior to achieving permanency
 - ▶ Providing a method to return the child to the custodial state if the placement no longer is in the child's best interest
 - ▶ Obtaining comprehensive assessments about proposed placements
- ▶ Ensures that children and families receive the services they need
 - ▶ The custodial agency does not have to travel to see the child
 - ▶ Receiving state may provide referral information to the sending state for the child specific services

The New Compact will:

1. ***Increase*** timely placements in other states.
2. ***Clarify*** the applicability of the ICPC to non-custodial parents.
3. ***Provide*** administrative review of denials in the receiving state.
4. ***Strengthen*** enforcement, provide mediation, binding dispute resolution, remedial training and technical assistance.
5. ***Provide*** mechanisms such that the rules can be changed more frequently and easier, so that compact can remain current.

Update:

- ▶ The 2022 legislative session, Vermont was the 14th state to adopt the New Compact (S.72).
- ▶ The New Compact does not go into effect until 35 states adopt the New Compact. Once 35 states adopt the New Compact, Vermont will be at the table for the rule making process.
- ▶ Vermont, New Hampshire and South Dakota ICPC representatives are currently chairing the New ICPC Committee on the National level in order to help advance the passage of the New Compact across the country.