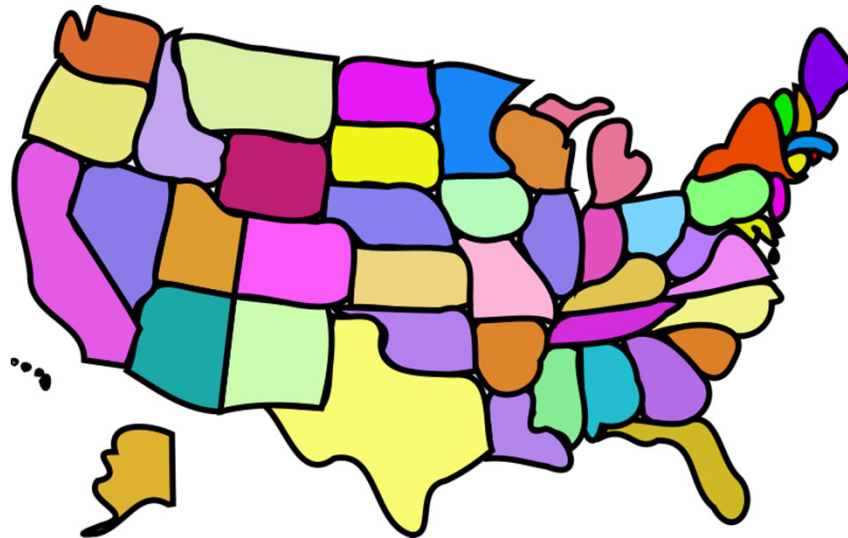


Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)



When does the ICPC apply?

When the Department seeks to place a child or sibling group in another state with:

- a parent or relative
- in a foster or adoptive home, or
- residential treatment program.



Visits vs. Placements

A child traveling out of state is considered to be on a visit when:

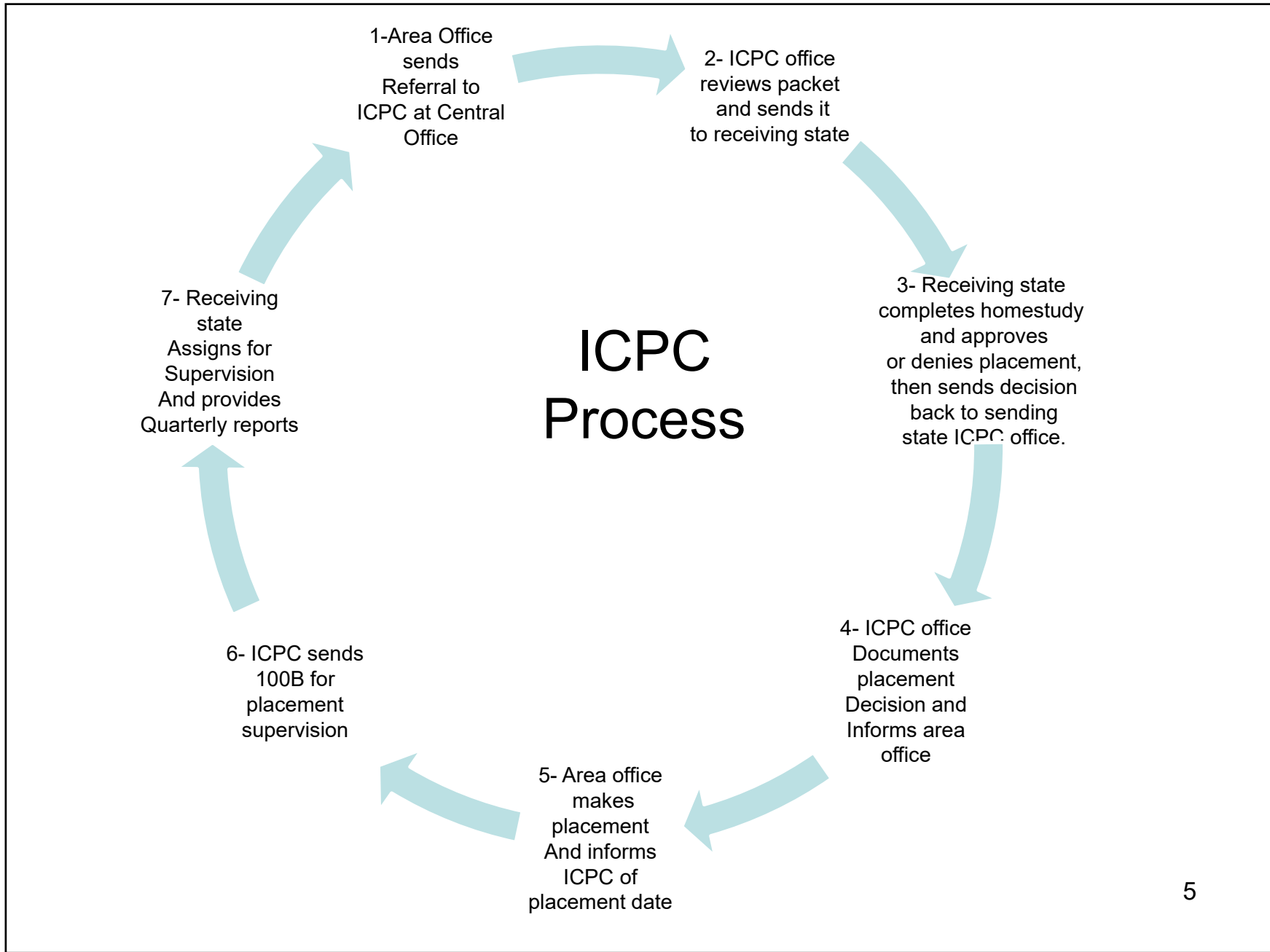
- It is for a brief social or cultural experience; and
- The visit has a definite end date; and
- The visit is no longer than 30 days, or begins and ends within a school vacation.

ICPC is NOT required for visits!

ICPC is:

An agreement adopted by all 50 states, DC and the U.S. Virgin Islands It ensures that:

- Children are placed in safe and appropriate environments
- States remain legally and financially responsible for the children placed outside their borders
- Children receive courtesy supervision by appropriate Child Welfare personnel in the receiving state.



ICPC Referral Process

Massachusetts as the sending state

Step 1- complete 100A and cover letter (child/resource sections) on IFNET.


Step 2- **print out and sign** 100A and cover letter from the documents section in the ICPC screen on IFNET.

Step 3: **complete workflow** on IFNET.

Step 4: gather required documentation (see handout).

Step 5: send to Central Office ICPC unit.

ICPC Referral Process cont.

- Area office staff can, if they choose, upload documentation directly into ifamilynet. Documents can be uploaded using the  button on a saved 100A.
- If you choose this method, please email or call ICPC to inform them that the documents have been uploaded.

Things to Know

1. Completing the workflow does **NOT** initiate an ICPC request, it creates a work reminder.
2. Incomplete packets will be returned to the area office after **two weeks** and will need to be resubmitted with required documentation.
3. Requests must be for either Foster Care or Adoption (An adoption home study request can only be made if the parental rights are terminated in the Sending state), **not** Relative Home Study (with the exception of Regulation 7 requests).
4. Most states take between 3-6 months for approval of placement.

Timelines

- Federal law requires interstate home studies to be completed within 60 days.
- Placement must be made within 6 months of approval.



Regulation 7 Priority Placements

Proposed placement is with:

- Parent
- Step-parent
- Grandparent
- Aunt or uncle
- Adult sibling
- Legal Guardian



Regulation 7 Application Criteria

- Unexpected dependency due to recent incarceration, incapacitation, or death of a parent or guardian, or
- The child is under 4 years of age, or
- The court finds that any child in the sibling group to be placed has a substantial relationship with the proposed placement, or
- The child is currently in an emergency placement.

Regulation 7 Timeline

- Court approves Reg. 7 order and Legal provides to DCF within 2 business days.
- Area Office submits ICPC request within 3 business days as a **RELATIVE HOMESTUDY**.
- ICPC *must* submit to the receiving state by the 5th business day.
- If 5 or more business days pass, the order is void and needs to be re-signed by the judge!
- Receiving state has 20 business days to render a decision on placement.

Regulation 7 Issues

- Many states, including MA, have difficulty complying with the timeframes.
- Not all states will conduct background checks for Reg. 7 requests; ***this will prevent placement!***
- If approved for placement, children who are IV-E eligible are **not** entitled to enroll in Medicaid until the placement is licensed.
- Social workers must request a foster home study to follow an approved reg. 7 home study so that the home can be licensed.

Regulation 1 Relocation

This allows children in DCF custody to move to another state prior to ICPC approval, with their:

- Foster family
- Adoptive family prior to finalization
- Legal parent or guardian
- Same referral process; must include current homestudy/license letter of foster family.
- Provide ICPC with the date the resource moved.
- ICPC will request supervision of the home during the homestudy process.

Financial/Medical Considerations

FOSTER/KIN/ADOPTIVE PLACEMENTS

- State is financially responsible
- Foster payments are provided
- State is responsible for ensuring medical needs are met.

PARENT PLACEMENTS

- Parent is financially responsible
- Parent is responsible to insure their child
- Can place on private insurance
- Can apply for Medicaid
- Can apply for Welfare Benefits

Medical Plan

Title IV-E

- Federal Medicaid eligible
- PCG provides letter to be submitted with the ICPC packet
- (617) 717-1280
- ICPCMA@pcgus.com

Non Title IV-E

- Not Federal Medicaid eligible
- Mass Health coverage for ER visits only.
- Must provide a plan; typical plan is to apply for Medicaid via TANF benefits
- See additional handout

Massachusetts as the Receiving State:

What do you do with a parent assessment?

- Parent Assessments are assigned to social workers through case assignment.
- Completed within 60 days.
- Regulation 7 is completed within 20 days.
- Parent assessments should clearly state recommendations and if placement is approved/ denied
- The area office will need to create an interim FAAP and only complete the family assessment portion of the FAAP.
- Signed by social worker and supervisor and sent to ICPC.

Massachusetts as the receiving state: *Foster Home Study*

- Requests are sent via workflow to the Family Resource Transfer Manager in the area office.
- Family Resource uses PID from the 100A to **set up a new FR Inquiry** to begin homestudy process.
- When complete, use workflow to finalize/ approve to send tickler to ICPC.
- Send physical copy of homestudy with signatures and license letter to ICPC.

Making an ICPC placement

- Work with your AAM to make travel arrangements for the child/social worker.
- **Inform ICPC of the child's date of placement!!!**

Provide the following:

- placement letter
- 2 month supply of medications, as needed.
- Immunization Record
- IEP and School Records
- W-9 form so that resource can be paid as foster parent.

Educational Costs for Placement

- 4 states require payment for the education of children placed through the ICPC.
- Maryland, New York, Virginia and Vermont
- To address this, the clinical team needs to meet with Management at the Area Office to determine where the funds are going to come from to pay for the educational costs.

Communication Between States

- Area Offices should not communicate directly with the other state's ICPC office. Contact your ICPC coordinator with questions for the receiving/sending state.
- Social workers are encouraged to communicate directly with case workers in the other state regarding case planning and day-to-day issues.

Supervision of an ICPC case

- Home/placement visits monthly
- Quarterly written progress reports; template now online in ifnet. Print, sign and email to the ICPC office.
- Sending state is responsible for the clinical management of the ICPC case.
- Communication and coordination with the sending state social worker regarding Action Plan tasks and referral for services.

Residential Requests

Guidelines Needed for RTC Placement

- The initial 100A form.
- Acceptance Letter from RTC.
- Birth Certificate
- Custody Order/Voluntary order/Legal Jurisdiction.
- Child Summary/Social History.
- IV-E Certificate.
- Medical & Financial Plan.
- Criminal charges/Disposition.
- Probation-Parole and also the officers name involved in the case.
- IEP.
- Clinical Evaluation and Treatment Plan.
- Psychosexual Risk Assessment Report (if any).

Closing the ICPC Case

Concurrence Required:

Agreement by the other state in writing that they agree with the change in custody.

- Adoption is finalized
- Legal custody obtained
- Guardianship awarded
- Custody returned to parent
- Send decree/court order to ICPC if applicable

Concurrence Not Required

- Child returns to sending state
- Child moves to a different state
- Proposed placement is withdrawn
- Approved resource not used
- Child ages out or is legally emancipated
- Treatment is completed

International Placements outside ICPC

- The Department has executed a contract with International Social Service, USA (ISS), to utilize their services and support with International Home Studies and Parental Assessments for children whose families live in a foreign country (i.e. Brazil).
- There is a referral process. You will need to contact MA ICPC to get further directions. The Contract Manager for ISS is Sharon F. Curry; sharon.f.curry@mass.gov
- The area office is responsible to pay for each product that they use from ISS.

Sending an ICPC request for Puerto Rico

- PR isn't a part of the Compact
- MA DCF has a contract with an agency in Puerto Rico to conduct foster home studies, adoption home studies and parent assessments. The agency is called Family Evaluation and Adoption Services.
- All referrals are created in iFN and sent to the MA ICPC Unit.
- The contracted agency doesn't have the ability to License the foster homes.

Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) and Probation for Juveniles

- Office of the Commissioner of Probation
- Donna Reed (617) 727-7196
- Her office is responsible for juveniles that are on probation. If a child is on the run and is picked up and the child is from another state, her office is the contact to deal with these types of cases.
- DYS deals with the ICJ (617) 727-7575 for children that are on parole and is transferred to a new jurisdiction.