

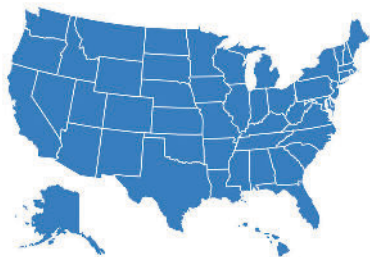
# WHAT IS THE ICPC?

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is a Federal Compact and uniform law in:

- All 50 states,
- The District of Columbia, and
- The U.S. Virgin Islands.

The law provides uniform guidelines and procedures. The ICPC applies in certain situations when a child is moving across state lines. If the ICPC applies, a child cannot move to another state without the approval of both states' ICPC offices.

For some children, placement may not be in his or her home state. Placement may be with relatives or other caregivers in a different state. Children deserve the same rights that they have in their home state when they move to another state. The Interstate Compact for Placement of Children (ICPC) is designed to ensure children have legal protections and can obtain needed services when they move to another state.



## ABOUT THE ICPC PROCESS

- The child's adoption professional, attorney, or child welfare professional will initiate the request if it is needed.
- All requests must be sent to the state ICPC office.
- Each type of request has different requirements.
- When the State ICPC office receives a complete referral, it will send the request to the other state.
- The other State ICPC office will assign a child welfare professional in your county to complete a home study. This will help determine if the placement would be safe, appropriate, and in the best interest of the child.
- The other State ICPC office will review the home study and will then make a decision to approve or deny the placement.
- If the placement is approved by the ICPC office, the child welfare professional and their agency will decide if the placement will be made.

### MORE INFORMATION

For additional information, you can visit the Department of Children and Families website:  
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/icpc>



# INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN (ICPC)



## ICPC Basics for Caregivers



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families



# WHY ICPC?

## THE ICPC ENSURES:

- The placement is safe and appropriate for the child.
- All laws and policies are followed before the child is moved.
- There are legal and financial protections for the child.
- There are supports and services for the child.
- The sending agency maintains jurisdiction of the child's case once the child moves to the other state.
- The sending state will receive regular updates and reports on the child.

## TIMEFRAMES

This depends on a lot of factors. Some requests, such as placement in a facility, take a few days or more. Some requests can take months to complete.

If you have questions about how long a request is taking, speak with the agency you are working with for the ICPC request.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

**When a child from another state is being considered for placement in your home, you can expect:**

1. The child welfare professional will contact you and ask you questions about your home, background, and ability to care for the child.
2. The child welfare professional will decide if they will submit an ICPC request.
3. If the ICPC request is made, a child welfare professional in your county will contact you to complete the home study.
4. The child welfare professional will make a recommendation to approve or deny placement based on the home study.
5. The State ICPC Office will make the final approval or denial of the placement.
6. If placement is approved by the receiving state's ICPC office, the child welfare professional in the sending state will decide if the placement will be made.

## HOME STUDY

**During the home study, the child welfare professional will do the following:**

- Ask you to complete paperwork about you and your home.
- Do a physical walk-through and safety check of your home.
- Complete background checks on you and all adults residing in your home.
- Interview everyone in your home. The interviews will include questions about your life, family, and caring for the child.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

**Be responsive** when the child welfare professional contacts you.

**Be flexible with your schedule.** It will be easier for the child welfare professional to complete the home visits and interviews.

**Inform your child welfare professional** of any changes in your contact information.

**Be patient.** ICPC specialists receive a large volume of interstate requests. They understand the urgency in each situation and attend to each request with care and attention, which does take time.

**Do not contact the ICPC office.** Your child welfare professional will do this. Discuss questions or concerns with your child welfare professional and they can contact the ICPC office as needed.

## PRIVATE ADOPTIONS

If you have a home study for a private adoption and have an interstate match, your adoption agency or attorney will complete the ICPC request packet. Your home study and other information about the adoption will be submitted to the ICPC offices. The ICPC office will review the request and make a decision regarding the placement of the child. You will be contacted when you are approved to travel home with the child.