660-5-35-.01 Definitions

(1) Central Registry – A statewide listing of information established by the Department of Human Resources, known as the Central Registry, for reporting of child abuse and neglect.

(2) Child – A person, who by reason of minority, is legally subject to parental guardianship or similar control. In the State of Alabama, the age of majority is nineteen (19) years.
(3) Compact Administrator - A person appointed in each state to oversee or perform the daily tasks associated with the administration of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC). The Compact Administrator is designated to serve as the central clearing point for all referrals for interstate placement and is authorized to conduct the necessary investigation of the proposed placement to determine whether or not the placement is in the best interest of the child.

(4) Criminal History Background Information Check - The review of any and all records containing any information collected and stored in the criminal record repository of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Alabama Department of Public Safety. This information involves arrests or convictions by a criminal justice agency, including but not limited to, child abuse crime information as defined by 42 U.S.C. §5119, the National Child Protection Act of 1993; conviction record information; fingerprint cards; correctional data and release information; and identifiable descriptions and notation of convictions. Criminal history background information does not include any analytical records or investigative reports that contain intelligence information or criminal investigation information.

(5) Foster Care - Care of a child on a twenty four (24) hour a day basis away from the home of the child’s parent(s). Such care may be by a relative of the child, by a non-related individual, by a group home, or by a residential facility or any other entity. In addition, if twenty four (24) hour a day care is provided by the child’s parent(s) by reason of a court-ordered placement (and not by virtue of the parent-child relationship), the care is foster care.

(6) Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) - A uniform law that has been enacted by all fifty (50) states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and that establishes orderly procedures for placing children across state lines for the purpose of foster care or adoption, and that fixes responsibility for those involved in placing the child; also referred to as the Compact.

(7) Placement - The arrangement of the care of a child in a family free or boarding home or in a child-caring agency or institution, but does not include any institution caring for the mentally ill, mentally defective or epileptic, or any institution primarily educational in character, and any hospital or other medical facility.
(8) Receiving State - The state to which a child is sent, brought, or caused to be sent or brought, whether by public authorities or private persons or agencies, and whether for placement with state or local public authorities or for placement with private agencies or persons.

(9) Relative - For the purpose of placing a child with a relative, that person must be related to the child by blood, marriage or adoption and must meet one of the following degrees of relationship: parent, grandparent, brother, sister, step parent, step brother, step sister, half brother, half sister, uncle or aunt, and their spouses.

(10) Sending Agency - A party state, officer or employee thereof; a subdivision of a party state, officer or employee thereof; a court of a party state; a person, corporation, association, charitable agency or other entity which sends, brings, or causes to be sent or brought any child to another party state.

(11) Visit - Visits and placements are distinguished on the basis of purpose, duration, and the intention of the person or agency with responsibility for planning for the child’s place of abode. If the purpose of a visit is to provide the child with a social or cultural experience of short duration (e.g., a stay in a camp or with a friend or relative who has not assumed legal responsibility for providing child care services), the stay is considered a visit. If the child’s stay is intended to be for longer than thirty (30) days, the circumstance constitutes a placement rather than a visit. A stay or proposed stay of longer than thirty (30) days is a placement or proposed placement, except that a stay of longer duration may be considered a visit if it begins and ends within the period of a child’s vacation from school as ascertained from the school’s academic calendar. A visit may not be extended or renewed in a manner that causes or will cause it to exceed thirty (30) days or the school vacation period. If a stay does not, from the outset, have an expressed end date, or if its duration is not clear from the circumstances, it shall be considered a placement or proposed placement and not a visit. Furthermore, a request for a home study or supervision made by the person or agency which sends or proposes to send a child on a visit and that is pending at the time that a visit is proposed will establish a rebuttable presumption that the intent of the stay or proposed stay is not a visit. A visit is not a placement within the meaning of the ICPC.

Author: Jerome Webb
660-5-35-.02 Types Of Placement Covered.

(1) The Compact applies to the following situations in which children may be sent to other states:

(a) when children in the temporary or permanent custody of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) are to be sent to other states;

(b) when the DHR is providing court ordered supervision of a child or the court has assumed jurisdiction over the child;

(c) when a private licensed child-placing agency (LCPA) has temporary or permanent custody of a child and is sending the child to another state for placement;

(d) when the birth parents are placing a child for adoption in another state;

(e) when children are placed in foster care, including foster homes, group homes, residential treatment facilities, and institutions;

(f) when children are placed with parents and relatives; and a parent or defined relative is not making the placement.

(2) The Compact does not apply in the following situations:

(a) When requests are made between states for investigations involving the custody of children during a divorce;

(b) When a child is to be placed by a parent, defined relative, or guardian having legal custody and the placement is with a relative in another state;

(c) When a child is to be placed in an institution for the mentally ill or mentally defective, epileptic, any hospital or medical facility, or an institution for purposes that are primarily educational;
When a child is in the custody and care of the Department of Youth Services or Department of Mental Health as the Compact Office of these respective agencies handles these placements; and

(e) When a child is visiting in other states.

Author: Jerome Webb


660-5-35-.03 Other Compacts Affecting Placements In Other States.

(1) The Interstate Compact On Juveniles (ICJ), administered by the Department of Youth Services, provides for obtaining home evaluations from and to other states for placement of children who remain in the custody of their legal custodian and who are on probation or under the supervision of the court. This Compact is also used to return runaway children to their "home" state when the children are not in the custody of the Department of Human Resources.

(2) The Interstate Compact On Mental Health (ICMH), administered by the Department of Mental Health, provides for the transfer of children in residential treatment facilities in one state to similar facilities in another state where the legal custodian lives. ICMH may also be used to ensure that aftercare services are provided. This Compact generally relates to children who are not in DHR legal custody.

(3) The Interstate Compact On Adoption And Medical Assistance (ICAMA), administered by the Department of Human Resources, ensures that adoptive parents of children with federal IV-E adoption assistance agreements and certain children with state adoption assistance agreements, including Medicaid, receive the medical services and benefits provided for in their assistance agreement regardless of where they reside in the United States. ICAMA facilitates the delivery of benefits and services when families move during the continuance of the adoption assistance agreement or in cases when the child is initially placed for adoption across state lines.

Author: Jerome Webb

660-5-35-.04 Conditions For Placement Of Children.

(1) Sending agencies must comply with Compact requirements and with the applicable laws of the receiving state governing the placement of children when children are to be placed in foster care or for possible adoption in other states.

(2) The sending state must, prior to sending, bringing, or facilitating a child’s placement in foster care or for possible adoption in a receiving state, provide authorities in the receiving state with written notice of the intention to send, bring or place the child into the state. This includes the provision of a referral that includes information required by Article III in the Compact.

(3) The receiving state shall provide written notice to the sending agency, prior to the child being sent, brought, or placed in the receiving state, that the proposed placement appears to be in the child’s best interest.

Author: Jerome Webb

660-5-35-.05 Children From Alabama Placed In Other States.

(1) Prior to a child’s placement in another state, the State Department of Human Resources (SDHR) ICPC Office must provide written approval for the placement and the concurrence of the court of jurisdiction must be obtained.

(a) Child care facilities that are licensed as a child-placing agency and that hold custody of a child shall act as the sending agency and follow Compact procedures when making placement requests with relatives in another state.

(b) Child care facilities that are not licensed as a child-placing agency and that hold custody of a child shall submit requests for relative placements to the DHR in the county
where the custody order was entered. The county DHR will process
the request using regular Compact procedures.

(2) The DHR must retain legal custody during the time
of placement. If the DHR does not have custody, but the court
has jurisdiction, this must be retained by the court during the
placement.

(3) Should it become necessary to return the child to
Alabama, the DHR or other Alabama agency is responsible for the
cost of transportation unless the receiving agency indicates the
family will pay.

(4) If a child is being placed out-of-state in a
foster care placement and a board payment is authorized, Medicaid
coverage may be provided by the sending or receiving state
depending on the child’s Title IV-E eligibility status.

(5) Children who are eligible to receive Title IV-E
adoption subsidy payments are eligible for Medicaid in their
state of residence.

(6) Custody or court jurisdiction of a child must be
retained by the sending agency for a minimum of six months in
order for the receiving agency to supervise the placement and
determine if it is satisfactory. The placement agreement may be
terminated only after a written report recommending termination
is provided by the receiving agency and written concurrence is
obtained from the receiving state’s Compact office. Court action
is required to relieve the sending agency of custody and/or
terminate court jurisdiction.

(7) If court jurisdiction of a child is to be
transferred to a court of like jurisdiction in the receiving
state and the child’s custody is to be placed with the
supervising agency, SDHR must be notified and the receiving state
must provide a written statement verifying that the court and
supervising agency agree to accept the case before any action is
taken.

Author: Jerome Webb
Statutory Authority: 42 U.S.C. §5119 National Child Protection
Act of 1993; Code of Ala. 1975, §§24-14-8, 38-7-15, 44-2-20; and
The Consolidation Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (P.L.
96-272).

History: New Rule: Filed August 4, 2006; effective
September 8, 2006.
Children From Other States Placed In Alabama.

(1) Sending agencies must submit a written request for placement to Alabama’s ICPC Office prior to placing a child in Alabama with relatives or in a foster care placement. A child must not be brought into the state for placement prior to State Department of Human Resources (SDHR) approval. Requests from other states must include sufficient information to enable the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to make an appropriate evaluation of the proposed placement. If the information provided by the other state is insufficient, additional written information will be requested before proceeding with the evaluation.

(2) Upon receipt from another state of a written request for placement of a child with a prospective resource, a home study must be conducted and returned to the requesting state within sixty (60) days of receipt of the request except if a delay is due to circumstances beyond state control, 15 days may be added (total of 75 days), provided that the state made a request for the delayed documents. County Departments have fifty (50) days to conduct, complete and return a home study report to State Department of Human Resources. The education and training parts of the home study of prospective foster and adoptive homes are not required to be completed within this timeframe.

(3) Home study reports received from another state, Indian tribe or private agency under contract with another state are considered as completed home studies, unless within 14 days after receipt of the report, the State determines, based on grounds specific to the content of the report, that making a decision in reliance on the report would be contrary to the welfare of the child.

(4) A foster home study must be conducted and Alabama’s Minimum Standards for Foster Family Homes, 660-5-29, must be met by any individual selected as a proposed foster care placement for a child when the degree of relationship between that individual and the child extends beyond the definition of relative per 660-5-35-.01-(9); when the child is unrelated to the individual selected as a proposed placement; and when termination of parental rights (TPR) has been identified as a plan for the child.

(5) The completed foster home study shall be submitted to State Department of Human Resources Interstate Compact Placement Office for review and a joint decision regarding placement is made between the State Department of Human Resources ICPC Office and the county department. SDHR will submit a recommendation for placement to the sending state.
(6) The completed home study must include Alabama Bureau of Investigation (ABI) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) criminal history checks; Child Abuse/Neglect Central Registry clearances on all household members age fourteen (14) years and older; and a recommendation regarding placement.

(7) There are three types of home studies.

(a) Home Study: Used alone, the term refers to an evaluation of a home’s environment conducted in accordance with applicable state requirements to determine whether a proposed placement of a child would meet the individual needs of the child, including the child’s safety, permanency, health, well being and mental, emotional and physical development.

(b) Interstate Home Study: This is a home study conducted by the Department at the request of another state to facilitate an adoptive or foster placement of a child under the responsibility of the state requesting the home study.

(c) Timely Interstate Home Study: A study described in “Interstate Home Study” that is completed within 30 days after the receipt of the request including a report on the results to the requesting state within 30 days.

(8) If the placement of a child from another state proves unsatisfactory and the child has to be removed from the home and placed in out-of-home care prior to the child’s return to the sending state, the sending state must be notified about the change in placement and apprised of the daily cost. The sending state is responsible for payment of that care.

(9) A report summarizing the adjustment of the child to the placement and recommending case closure must be sent to the SDHR to obtain approval before the sending state can terminate their case. When termination is recommended, the sending state must provide the receiving state with a copy of the court order terminating the case.

Author: Jerome Webb


(1) The following regulation adopted by the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children is declared to be in effect on and after July 2, 2001.

(2) The proposed placement of a child from one state into another state may be made a priority by a court when specific circumstances apply to the child’s case. These case situations are referred to as Regulation Number 7 priority placements.

(3) A court order finding entitlement to a priority placement is valid only when it contains an expressed finding that one or more of the following circumstances exists in the child’s case and sets forth the facts on which the court bases its finding.

(a) The person with whom the child is proposed to be placed is a relative who could receive the child from another person without complying with ICPC according to Article VIII(a) of the Compact and the child is under two years old; or the child is in an emergency shelter; or the court finds that the child has spent a substantial amount of time in the home of the person with whom the placement is proposed.

(b) The receiving state Compact Administrator has had the proper Compact documentation for over thirty business days, but the sending agency has not received a notice, according to ICPC Article III(d), determining whether the child may or may not be placed.

(4) Regulation Number 7 priority placements shall not apply to any case in the sending state where the placement request is for licensed or approved foster family care or adoption; or the child is already in the receiving state in violation of the Compact.

(5) The court shall send its order for priority placement to the sending agency within two business days. The order shall include the name, address, telephone number, and if available, the FAX number of the judge and the court. The court shall have the sending agency transmit, within three business days, the signed court order, a completed Compact form “Request for Placement” and supporting documentation according to ICPC Article III to the sending state Compact Administrator.

(6) Within a time not to exceed two business days after receipt of the priority placement request, the sending state Compact Administrator shall transmit, by overnight mail,
the priority request and its accompanying documentation to the receiving state Compact Administrator together with a notice that the request for placement is entitled to priority processing. The receiving state Compact Administrator shall make a determination according to ICPC Article III(d) as soon as possible, but no later than twenty business days from the date the overnight mailing was received, and return the completed Compact form “Request for Placement” and supporting documentation by FAX to the sending state Compact Administrator.

(7) If the receiving state Compact Administrator fails to complete actions described in 660-5-35-.07-(5) within the time period allowed, the receiving state is deemed to be out of compliance with ICPC. If there appears to be a lack of compliance, the court that entered the priority order may inform an appropriate court in the receiving state, provide that court with copies of relevant documentation in the case, and request assistance. Within its jurisdiction and authority, the requested court may render assistance, including the entering of appropriate orders, for the purpose of obtaining compliance with ICPC and Regulation Number 7 priority placement.

(8) The action in 660-5-35-.07-(6) shall not apply if:

(a) within two business days of receipt of the ICPC priority placement request, the sending state Compact Administrator determines that the documentation is substantially insufficient; specifies that additional information is needed; and requests the additional documentation from the sending agency. The request shall be made by FAX or by telephone if FAX is not available; or

(b) within two business days of receipt of the ICPC priority placement request, the receiving state Compact Administrator notifies the sending state Compact Administrator that further information is needed. Notice to the sending state shall specifically detail the information needed. For a case in which this situation applies, the twenty business day period for the receiving state Compact Administrator to complete action shall be calculated from the date the requested information is received by the receiving state Compact Administrator.

(9) Where the sending state court is not itself the sending agency, it is the responsibility of the sending agency to keep the court, which issued the priority order, informed of the status of the priority request.

(10) Priority placement time periods may be modified with a written agreement between the court which made the priority order, the sending agency, the receiving state Compact
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Administrator, and the sending state Compact Administrator. Any modification to the time period shall apply only to the single case to which it is addressed.

(11) Interstate cases must be processed no less quickly than intrastate cases and given no less attention to interstate hardship cases than to intrastate hardship cases. If in doing so, a receiving state compact Administrator finds that extraordinary circumstances make it impossible to comply with priority placement time periods, strict compliance may be excused. However, the receiving state Compact Administrator shall, within two business days of ascertaining inability to comply, notify the sending state Compact Administrator via FAX of the inability to comply and shall set forth the date on or before which it will complete the needed action. The notice shall contain a full identification and explanation of the extraordinary circumstances which are delaying compliance.

(12) Unless otherwise required or allowed by this rule, all transmittals of documents or other written materials shall be by overnight express mail carrier service.

Author: Jerome Webb


660-5-35-.08 Interstate Placement In Group Homes, Child Care Institutions, And Residential Treatment Facilities.

(1) All requests by county DHRs to place a child in a group home, child care institution or residential treatment facility in another state must be approved by SDHR prior to placement.

(a) A child can only be referred to, placed in, or provided services by a group home, child care institution or residential treatment facility which is licensed or approved in accordance with the laws in the state in which it is located.

(b) Prior to placement, the court having jurisdiction must be notified for written concurrence with the out-of-state plan for a child who is in DHR custody.

(2) If a parent or guardian having legal custody of a child plans to place that child in a group home, child care
in institution or residential treatment facility in another state, ICPC requirements must be met. The county DHR in the legal parent’s or guardian’s county of residence will assist the parent or guardian in completing the required documentation. SDHR reviews the ICPC documentation and notifies the county DHR when the placement is approved. The receiving state or parent/guardian must notify SDHR when the placement is terminated so the child’s case can be officially closed.

(3) Other states that plan to place a child in an Alabama group home, child care institution or residential treatment facility must submit the referral through the SDHR. The group home, child care institution or residential treatment facility must be in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for SDHR to accept the referral.

(a) If a group home, child care institution or residential treatment facility receives a referral directly from another state, the home or facility must provide the referral source with written notice of interstate placement statutes and must contact the SDHR prior to accepting the child for placement.

(b) SDHR will request Compact documentation from the sending state for placements that are approved.

Author: Jerome Webb

660-5-35-.09 Children Moving With Foster/Adoptive Parents Between States.

(1) The Compact is applicable when children in foster care relocate to another state with their foster family. This includes children who have been placed with adoptive parents and the adoption has not been finalized.

(2) If the relocation is planned to occur more than forty five days in the future, normal Compact procedures shall apply.

(3) Concurrence with the plan to relocate must be obtained from the court of jurisdiction when the child is in Alabama foster care. If the child is in foster care in Alabama
pursuant to an Agreement for Foster Care, the DHR must obtain legal custody of the child prior to the relocation.

(4) SDHR may decline to provide a favorable determination for relocation to Alabama, pursuant to Compact Article III(d), if the Compact Administrator finds that the child’s needs cannot be met under the circumstances of the proposed relocation.

(5) When the child is in foster care in another state and the plan is to relocate to Alabama with the foster family, that family must comply with Alabama laws promptly after their arrival in the State; apply to be an Alabama foster family home; and be approved according to Alabama’s Minimum Standards for Foster Family Homes. The family’s foster home study from the sending agency must be received and reviewed by SDHR. SDHR will recognize the sending agency’s foster family training requirements if the training program from the other state is shown to be substantially equivalent to training offered for the same purpose in Alabama and the evidence submitted is in the form of an official certificate or other document identifying the training. Subsequent to the initial approval, the foster family home must be reapproved on an annual basis.

(6) At any time after the relocation it is determined that continued placement with the foster family is contrary to the child’s best interest, the sending agency is responsible for immediately planning an alternative placement or the child’s return to the sending state. For children in adoptive homes, this provision applies only when the adoption has not been finalized.

Author: Jerome Webb


(1) The Compact applies when children in the permanent custody of a child welfare agency are to be placed in another state for the purpose of adoption.
(2) The sending agency shall prepare a request for placement and an adoptive home study, and submit it to the receiving state. SDHR will not process the request and conduct an adoptive home study if the child is not free for adoption because the termination of parental rights is under appeal.

(3) The receiving state shall conduct the adoptive home study and provide a disposition regarding placement to the sending agency. If the study is approved, arrangements for the actual placement will be finalized.

(4) If, prior to the finalization of the adoption, it is determined that the placement is contrary to the child’s best interest, the sending agency shall make arrangements for the child to be returned to the sending state.

(5) The receiving state is responsible for making a recommendation regarding the finalization of the adoption and the court of jurisdiction is responsible for issuing the Final Decree of Adoption.

Author: Jerome Webb

660-5-35-.11 Placement For Adoption Between States – Private/Independent Adoptions.

(1) The Compact applies to private/independent adoptions which are those adoptions where the Department does not have the legal authority to consent to the individual’s adoption. Included in this group are adoption by relatives; adoption placements made by licensed child-placing agencies; and adoption of children placed independently by birth parents.

(2) The sending agency or person shall prepare and submit the ICPC documentation to SDHR for processing.

(3) For children who will be placed in Alabama, the adoptive home study shall be completed by a representative of a licensed child-placing agency or licensed social worker. Interviews with the child’s birth parents shall be conducted by a representative of a licensed child-placing agency or a licensed social worker in the birth parent’s legal state of residence.
SDHR shall review the adoptive home study and provide a determination regarding the child’s placement.

(4) For Alabama children who will be placed in another state, the adoptive home study shall meet the requirements of the state of residence of the prospective adoptive resource where the adoption will be finalized. Due to variations in state laws, a determination must be made regarding where the adoption can be legally finalized.

(5) When the adoptive placement disrupts prior to the issuance of the Final Decree of Adoption, the sending agency or person is responsible for returning the child to the sending state.

Author: Jerome Webb


660-5-35-.12 Intercountry Placement Of Children.

(1) All requests for placement of or the provision of services to a child in another country shall be processed by SDHR.

Author: Jerome Webb
