

**Guidance on Interstate Compact Placement of Children (ICPC) During COVID-19  
for DCF Social Workers and DCF Attorneys  
Effective Date: May 18, 2020**

The Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) continues to receive and process all ICPC requests during COVID-19. This includes Foster Home, Parent, Adoption Study, Residential and Private Adoption referrals and Regulation 7 requests.

ICPC cases are assigned by the last name of the oldest child or the type of ICPC Request

**Children with the Last Names A – K, X – Z**

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**Children with the Last Names L – W**

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**For ICPC Residential Care Referrals or Parent Placement Referrals:**

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**Sending  
Children to  
Visits or  
Placement in  
Another State**

Before sending a child out-of-state, the social worker assigned to the case or their supervisor should contact the Central Office ICPC unit to verify if the state is accepting placements at this time.

It is important that the social worker or supervisor also check with the Central Office ICPC Unit before setting up an out-of-state visit. As with placements, there are a variety of requirements around interstate visits.

Any child being sent out-of-state will need to have a Massachusetts Health Care COVID-19 Screening Form completed (attached).

**Modified  
Processes in  
Other States**

Many states have modified how they process ICPC requests and placements. At this time, most states are only accepting electronic referrals and may not have access to ICPC case files due to teleworking. Many states are also limiting face-to-face contact to emergency or critical situations only. States are utilizing videoconference to communicate virtually with families. States may also have travel restrictions in place.

Fingerprinting/BRC and CORI checks may be delayed as a result of state closures. Additionally, foster parent training may be delayed as a result of state closures.

The Association of the Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children ([AAICPC](#)) provides regular updates identifying each state's current restrictions due to COVID-19. As of May 18, these restrictions are as follows:

*States with no ICPC Restrictions*

- Florida, North Carolina, New Hampshire and New York.

*States with Restrictions on ICPC Placements/Requests*

- Maine, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania are requiring COVID-19 Screening of the child/children prior to placement.

*States Not Processing New ICPC Requests or Placements:*

- AK Tribe and Native Villages are stopping all travel into and out of their communities.
- CT ICPC is currently closed and only processing Private Adoption and Residential requests. Staff are reachable by iPhone and do not have access to ICPC cases.
- Georgia ICPC is not encouraging new placements under Regulation 2 while under a state shelter in place order.
- Maryland ICPC is only accepting Private Adoption and Residential requests.
- New Jersey ICPC has suspended incoming home study requests for Foster, Parents, Public Adoptions, upgrades and new courtesy supervision.
- Vermont ICPC has suspended all new placements into Vermont. Vermont ICPC is accepting new requests for an ICPC home studies if the sending state can send documents to the prospective resource or parent electronically.
- Washington State ICPC has suspended placements into and out of state until further notice.
- The Department's contracted agency in Puerto Rico, Family and Evaluation and Adoption Services, is limited in accepting new requests and providing supervision face-to-face.

**Receiving  
Children from  
Another State  
for Visits or  
Placement**

DCF is allowing children to be placed into Massachusetts if the sending state has completed the attached COVID-19 Screening Form. If children are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or have had any known exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days, the placement cannot occur. New referrals will continue to be emailed to the Area Director for assignment. Assigned Social Workers should continue to complete Progress Reports for new and existing placements. The ICPC Unit is notifying states that Massachusetts is completing visits through videoconference unless it is an emergency or a child's safety may be at serious risk.

If an out-of-state placement disrupts in Massachusetts or in a state where a Massachusetts child is placed, the social worker or supervisor assigned to the case should immediately inform the Central Office ICPC unit.