

VI. Requests from Other States for Services in North Carolina

North Carolina's Responsibilities as a Receiving State

When a child is placed by another state into North Carolina, the county Departments of Social Services' responsibilities are as follows:

- a. Supervision of the placement within 30 days of the State Interstate office being notified the child is in the State;
- b. Submission of progress reports as determined by the ICPC-100A to the Interstate office for forwarding to the sending state; (ICPC Supervision Report 30 Day (DSS 5331: <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/forms/dss/dss-5331.pdf> or ICPC Supervision Report 90 Day (DSS 5332: <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/forms/dss/dss-5332.pdf>).
- c. Notifying the ICPC office in writing when there is a change in the child's placement.

Supervision serves the purpose of assessing the conditions and progress toward compliance with laws and requirements of both Sending and Receiving states. It must include face to face visits with the child at least once a month and occur within the child's home a majority of the time. Supervision visits continue until supervision is terminated by the sending state.

Safety Concerns- the Sending Agency has responsibility for action to ensure ongoing safety. Safety issues may be addressed by providing services, finding an alternate placement in the Receiving State or returning the child to the Sending State.

A. PLACEMENTS WITH PARENTS OR RELATIVES IN NORTH CAROLINA

1. When interstate requests are received by the North Carolina Interstate Services office, they are reviewed for completeness and compliance and are forwarded to the appropriate county Department of Social Services. Based on the Interstate Services staff review, additional information may be requested from the Sending State.
2. The county Department of Social Services may also request additional information from the sending agency through the Interstate Services office. When such a request is made, the request must be made in triplicate to the Interstate Services office by the county Department of Social Services.

3. When completing a home evaluation, refer to the Home Evaluation Outline in Section C below. The Home Evaluation should be completed within 60 days in compliance with P.L. 109-239, the Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act of 2006 (http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/federal/index.cfm?event=federalLegislation.viewLegis&id=82).
When a delay is anticipated, the county Department of Social Services should notify NC's Interstate Services unit. The written notification must be made in triplicate explaining the delay, i.e., fingerprint checks have not been received, and sent to the Interstate Services unit.
4. Upon completing the Home Evaluation, the county Department of Social Services forwards the study and a cover letter in triplicate to Interstate Services unit. The completed Home Evaluation must include a definite recommendation regarding the suitability of the placement. All interstate correspondence must be submitted in triplicate and must include the NC file number as well as the other state's file number, when applicable. Home Evaluations must not be sent directly to any other state.
5. After review of the Home Evaluation, the Interstate Services staff will approve or disapprove the placement, forward the Home Evaluation and ICPC-100A (DSS-1837: <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/forms/dss/dss-1837-ia.pdf>) to the Sending State and send a copy of the transmittal to the county DSS.
6. When a county Department of Social Services receives an ICPC-100B (DSS-1838: <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/forms/dss/dss-1838-ia.pdf>), notifying that the child has been placed in North Carolina, the county Department of Social Services begins supervision of the child at that time.
7. Throughout a child's placement in North Carolina, progress reports are submitted to the Interstate Services office in accordance with the frequency requested on the ICPC-100A by the Sending State. Each progress report must include a definite statement that the Sending State must retain jurisdiction unless or until the time a recommendation for transfer of legal custody to the placement resource or termination of jurisdiction is appropriate.
8. Requests for a provisional determination by the Sending State to North Carolina will initiate the following activities:
 - (a) Visiting the prospective placement residence to assess risks an appropriateness for placement.

- (b) Searching the RIL for prior reports/investigations on the placement resource.
 - (c) Performing a local background criminal background check on the placement resource.
 - (d) Providing a provisional written report to the Interstate Services Office as to the appropriateness of the placement. Determination must be made within 7 calendar days of receipt of the completed request packet by the NC Interstate Compact Office.
 - (e) A provisional placement shall continue until a final approval or denial of the placement by North Carolina or until the Sending State is requested to return the child.
 - (f) A provisional denial means that the Receiving State cannot approve a provisional placement. A more comprehensive home study or assessment process is needed to resolve issues.
 - (g) A final decision must be made within 15 business days from the date that the forms and materials were received by the NC Interstate office. The NC Interstate office will forward the home study and decision within 3 businesses days, but no later than 20 days.
 - (h) Should NC Interstate office determine the documentation provided is substantially deficient, a request for additional documentation will occur within 2 business days. If a request is not made within 2 business days, the documentation will be deemed adequate. If a provisional decision is requested, the provisional placement evaluation process will continue while waiting for the additional information.
 - (i) Failure of the county Department of Social Services to comply with actions within the timeframes set for expedited placement decisions will mean the County is out of compliance with Regulation 7.
9. Decision to approve or deny placement:
- a. Authority rests with North Carolina to make a determination of approval or denial of the placement. The Home Evaluation report should clearly state whether the County is approving or denying the placement. This should occur

- as soon as practical; however, must occur within 180 days. This six month time frame is to allow licensing and training requirements applicable to foster or adoption requests.
- b. If the foster parent or relative placement moved here with the child from a Sending State with a current license, certificate or approval as qualified to be a foster parent or other placement resource, North Carolina must honor the license and training from the Sending State unless there is substantial evidence that the license, certificate, or approval has expired or otherwise is not valid. Then the placement resource and the Sending State shall state in writing that the placement resource will become licensed in the Receiving State.
 - c. In the event the home study completed in 60 days does not include a decision approving or denying permission to place a child due to training and/or licensing, the report shall reference such items by including an anticipated date of completion.
10. Reconsideration of an Interstate Services denial may be made by a Sending State with or without a home evaluation within 90 days from the date the 100A is signed denying the placement. Reconsideration may be based on:
- a. New information presented addressing the issues for denial in the home evaluation.
 - b. Re-examination of the reasons for original denial when there has been a change in the circumstances leading to the denial. This would mean a new home evaluation must be completed to ensure the change in circumstances warrant approval.
 - c. A decision on the reconsideration of the denial must be made within 60 days of the date that the formal request to reconsider was received from the Sending State Interstate Services office.
 - d. At the time of a denial of placement or a determination that the placement no longer meets the needs of the child, the return of the child shall occur within 5 working days from the date of notice for removal unless otherwise agreed upon between the Sending State and North Carolina.

B. PLACEMENTS FOR ADOPTION IN NORTH CAROLINA BY A PUBLIC AGENCY

- 1. Interstate requests for adoptive placements are received by the NC Interstate Services office and are reviewed for completeness

- and compliance. Complete and compliant request packets are forwarded to the appropriate county Department of Social Services. .
2. The county Department of Social Services may also request additional information from the sending agency through the Interstate Services office. When such a request is made, the request must be made in triplicate and sent to the Interstate Services office by the county Department of Social Services.
 3. Upon completing the Home Evaluation (also known as the Preplacement Assessment and home study) the county Department of Social Services shall forward the study and a cover letter in triplicate to the NC Interstate Services office. The Home Evaluation (Preplacement Assessment) must include a definite **recommendation regarding the suitability of the placement**. All interstate correspondence must be submitted in triplicate and must include the NC file number as well as the other state's file number, when applicable. **Home Evaluations (Preplacement Assessment) must not be sent directly to any other state.**
 5. After review of the Home Evaluation (Preplacement Assessment) the Interstate Services staff will approve or disapprove the placement, forward the Home Evaluation (Preplacement Assessment) and ICPC-100A (DSS-1837: <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/forms/dss/dss-1837-ia.pdf>) to the sending state and return a copy of the transmittal to the agency that completed the home evaluation.
 6. When a county Department of Social Services receives an ICPC-100B (DSS-1838: <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/forms/dss/dss-1838-ia.pdf>), notifying that the child has been placed in North Carolina, the county Department of Social Services must begin supervision of the child(ren).
 7. Throughout a child's placement in North Carolina, progress reports are submitted to the Interstate Services office in accordance with the frequency requested on the ICPC-100A DSS-1837 by the Sending State. Each progress report must include a definite statement that the Sending State retains jurisdiction until the final Decree of Adoption.

C. Home Evaluation Outline (AKA the Preplacement Assessment)

Directions:

Address all areas that apply. Refer to other studies if applicable.

Identifying Data:

Names, ages, sex, religion of members of household.

Summary of Agency's Experience:

Comment on family's attitude and degree of cooperation. If the family is previously known to agency, include information on the previous contacts.

Health and Physical Description:

Include a brief physical description. Indicate the general health conditions of members of the household and important past health problems.

Personality and Inter-Personal Relationships:

Briefly describe the personalities of members of the household. Comment on life experiences as they affect current functioning. Comment on how family members relate to others.

Quality of Marriage:

Briefly describe the roles of husband and wife in the marriage and/or their relationship to each other. Include information on previous marriages if any. What are their particular strengths and vulnerabilities? (This will not apply to all placements.)

Describe Child Rearing Practices and Beliefs

Education and Employment:

Describe the education and employment history of the family.

Social Relationships:

Briefly describe the family's social life, recreational interest, and community relations.

Housing and Financial Situation:

Brief description of the home and plans for accommodating the child
Describe the family's economic situation and whether they will need financial assistance.

Criminal Record:

Include information on any criminal record of a family member.

Motivation and Attitude toward Parenting the Child (ren):

Include information on the family's motivation in requesting the placement and their relationship with the child. What preparations have been made for the child? How will the special needs of the child be met? Does the family understand the future supervisory role of the agency?

References

Recommendations