

SECTION XIII - INTERSTATE/INTERCOUNTRY SERVICE ACTIVITY CODES

Interstate/Intercountry Service is not defined as a discrete service in North Carolina. Service workers use the interstate/intercountry rules and procedures to facilitate arrangements for and support the provision of other discrete services. Thus, interstate/intercountry services best describe an implementation of mechanisms which bring the delivery of discrete services into a legal framework.

Service worker activities required to meet requirements specific to General Statutes and implementing policies on interstate/intercountry movement of children are generally the initial function and the on going case management function. The services required by children moving under the protection of the interstate laws should be those services (protective services, foster care services, adoption services, etc.) appropriate to the child's service needs.

Interstate/intercountry service activities most frequently facilitate the delivery of adoption services and foster care services. However, the provision of other discrete services to children may require the use of interstate channels. The following guidance may be of assistance to gain perspective on accounting for a worker's time:

1. Requests from an out-of-state agency to evaluate a prospective placement resource in North Carolina.

Time used to respond to this request may be relatively brief; or, considerable time may be spent in a home study. Services workers may consider initial contacts as activities to carry out the agency's intake function (Code 381). During this period it is often difficult to know whether the potential placement will develop and whether there will be an eventual service need/request.

In some instances, assessment of the potential placement resource can be in response to a request for a child to come into the state for purposes of adoption. In these instances, services workers can account for their time as Adoption Services Recruitment (Code 011). The same approach may be used if the prospective placement of the child would be a licensed or approved and supervised foster care facility (Code 103).

When the time spent and the nature of the assessment activities go beyond intake, but do not fall within the adoption or foster care services recruitment contexts, service workers may account for their time as "Other Child Welfare Services" (Code 390).

Based on the evaluation of the potential placement resource in relationship to what the out-of-state agency has revealed about the needs of the child, the county department of social services either recommends the placement or does not recommend the placement. If placement is recommended, the county department of social services and the out-of-

state agency negotiate a tentative plan for services. The county department of social services may sign an application on behalf of the child and establish a services file. At this point, a needs assessment, planning for services, and arranging for services constitute case management activities (Code 109 for foster care or 009 for adoption).

2. Services Activities after Placement of a Child in North Carolina

After a child is in North Carolina, the county department of social services completes the eligibility determination process. Case planning is completed and direct service delivery to the child begins. This process is the same as with any other services case. Throughout the duration of the case, time spent in negotiations and joint planning with the out-of-state agency may be viewed as case management (Code 109 for foster care or 009 for adoption).

- A. When a child in the custody of an out of state agency is placed with his/her parent(s) in North Carolina, services which are needed and wanted are to be provided, e.g., protective services, delinquency prevention services, individual and family adjustment services. These services may be provided as long as the child needs such services, based on the joint assessment/planning negotiations with the out of state agency. At such time as services are no longer needed and appropriate, the two agencies should consider termination of the other state's custody and the interstate compact agreements.
- B. When a child who is in the custody of an out-of-state agency is placed with relatives or in a licensed/approved foster care facility, foster care services (Code 109) are appropriate. These services included licensure preparation (Code 103) of the relative's home when the other state needs the home to be licensed in order for foster care assistance payments to be made.
- C. When a child, who is in the custody of an out-of-state agency and who is legally free for adoption, is placed with adoptive parents, adoption services (Code 009) are appropriate.

3. Interstate Runaways

When a North Carolina foster child runs away and is detained in another state, the activities required to affect his return are case management activities (Code 109).

When an out-of-state runaway needs services and placement in the temporary custody of a county department of social services, protective services (Code 210) are provided. The negotiations and planning with

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the court, the Interstate Compact on Juveniles, and the state of residence regarding the return are case management (Code 380).