

Handouts for the Webinar

Tips and Strategies for Successful Out-of-State Adoptive Placements

October 6, 2015

Presenters

Jamie Bazemore and Kimberly Best

NC Kids

Child Welfare Services Section

NC Division of Social Services

Rebekah Smith and Charlene Timmons

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Unit

Child Welfare Services Section

NC Division of Social Services

Produced by

Family and Children's Resource Program, part of the

Jordan Institute for Families

UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work

Sponsored by

NC Division of Social Services

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To read ICPC regulations go to <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-70/man/PDF%20docs/ICPCsIII.pdf>

PRESENTER BIOS



Jamie Bazemore

Jamie has been working in child welfare in the field of adoption for almost ten years. She was an adoption social worker and adoption and foster home licensing supervisor at Chatham County DSS for seven years. Jamie joined the NC Division of Social Services as the program manager for the Adoption Services Team in 2013. She currently supervises three program areas: NC Kids, Adoption Review and Indexing, and Confidential Intermediary.



Kimberly Best

I began working with the NC Division of Social Services' NC Kids Program in October 2014. The previous 19 years were spent working at Alamance County and Craven County departments of social services in the areas of CPS, foster care, foster home licensing and adoption.



Rebekah Richmond

Rebekah is an ICPC Consultant with the NC Division of Social Services.



Charlene Timmons

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology/ Social Work from UNC –Wilmington and a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Webster University- St. Louis, MO. I have worked in child welfare services for the past 30 years in (3) different NC counties to include, Brunswick, Cumberland and Chatham, as well as in the state of GA. I have held my current position as a Program Consultant with the NC Division of Social Services for 21 years.

PURCHASE OF SERVICE FEES

\$1,800 is available from the Division of Social Services per child. Requests for assistance with purchase of service fees should be submitted in writing to:

Amelia Lance, Special Needs Adoption Coordinator

North Carolina Dept. of Health and Human Services

Division of Social Services

820 S. Boylan Avenue

Raleigh, NC 27699

919-527-6346

Amelia.lance@dhhs.nc.gov

Documentation of the total fee needed and the following should be included in the letter of request:

- that the county department making the request has legal placement and consenting authority;
- that the child is legally cleared for adoption;
- that the child is considered hard to place due to such factors as age, race, physical, mental or emotional handicaps, and/or due to being a member of a sibling group to be placed together; and
- that the child is registered, **with NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care Network**, if a family has not been identified for the child.

Additional information regarding Purchase of Service Fees can be found in Chapter VI: Adoption Services manual:

<http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-50/man/CSs1303-04.htm>

The Concept of “Maybe” in Adoption

In truth, there is no way to identify definitively which families will finalize an adoption and which families will disrupt prior to placement. Whichever they do, they have all been through a study and training process, and all of them have been approved for adoption. Almost every one of those who disrupt are well-intentioned families. Whether they are people unknowingly looking for their fantasy child, or people underestimating the reality of what abandonment has cost our children, they wreak havoc upon our children. In some measure, because these families are well-intentioned, our children often blame themselves for the disruption when it occurs.

At the point of placement, therefore, all adoptive placements are still risky. For us to make believe that it is otherwise, or to minimize the risk to the children, causes no damage if, and only if, the placements lead to finalization. The same is true if we allow the pre-adoptive families to talk about “forever” before they have had a chance to really get to know the children and to experience some of the impact that the children will have on them, and on their families, “forever.”

On the other hand, we want the children to be as open as they can be to the new possible family, and we want the families to be as open to the children as possible. It does not help create an adoption if both child and family treat their relationship as another foster care relationship.

The **balance** between child and family being open to permanence with each other, or being closed off from one another, is the concept of “maybe.”

Introducing a possible adoptive family to a child as a “maybe-family” gives the child the truth of the situation; the family is not only interested in adoption, but is interested in adopting the particular child. The reality, however, is that, once past toddler-hood, children and families need to get to know each other before they can make adoption decisions.

What follows from that first premise is that the pre-adoptive parents may not be called “mom and dad” or any variation thereof. The reason has nothing to do with hesitation or second thoughts of either party; it has to do with the fact that it is not yet decided whether the maybe-parents are going to be the forever parents.

Until the family and team have made the permanent, irrevocable, and unconditional decision that defines adoption, the concept of “maybe” safeguards the child from re-experiencing feelings of abandonment. Abandonment issues lie within all of our children. Adoption - whether finalized or not – needs to allow for the child to experience the internal consequences of their original abandonments as safely as possible.

MAYBE...
MAYBE...
MAYBE!

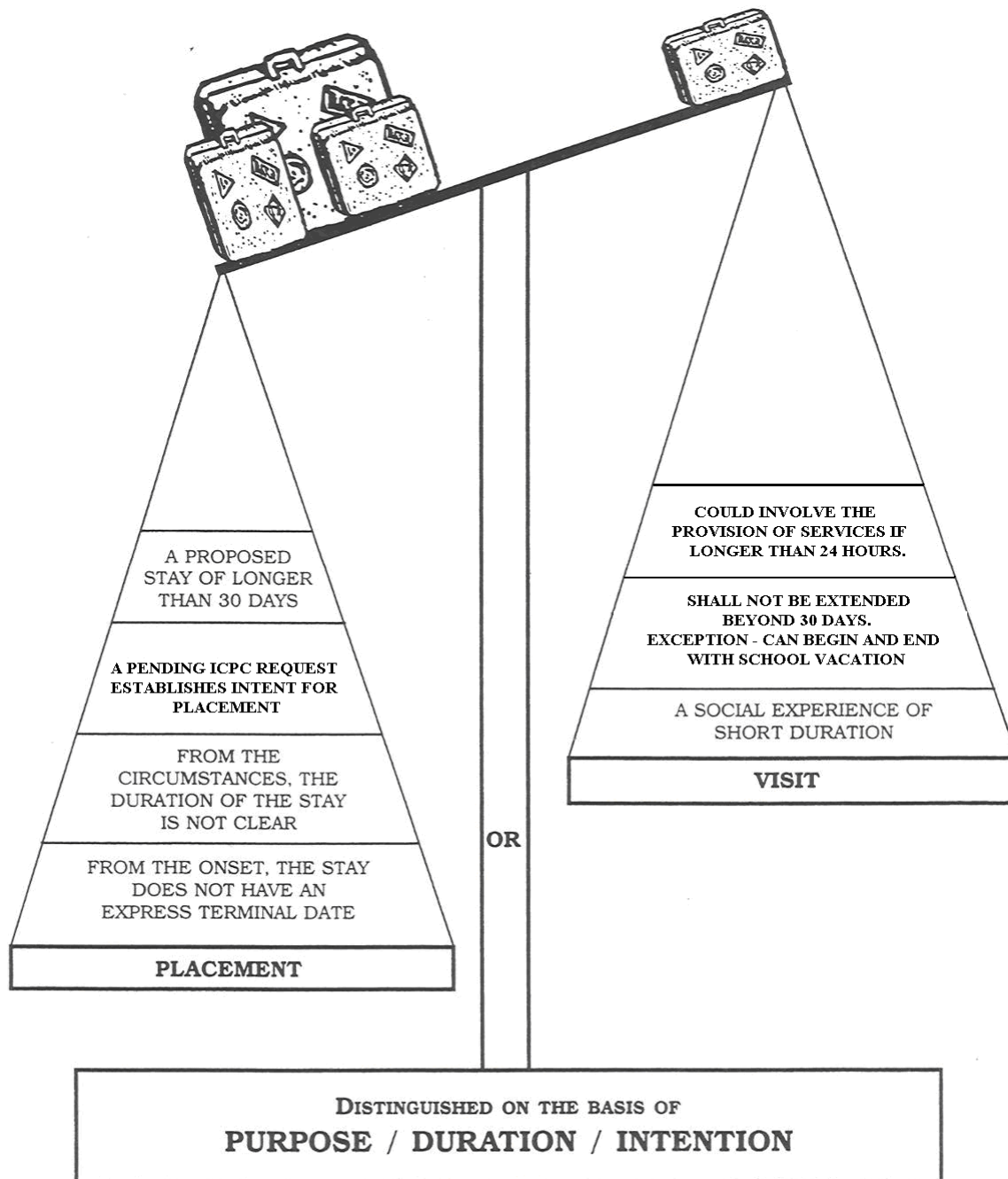
Adapted from the work of Family Focus Adoption Services and Maris Blechner, M.Ed., LCSW

TIPS FOR ACHIEVING A SMOOTH AND SUCCESSFUL OUT-OF-STATE ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT



- Thoroughly vet prospective adoptive families
 - ✓ Check your own biases and leave them at the door
 - ✓ Do they meet general criteria; do they have access to necessary services; are they trained/licensed; are they willing/able to maintain important connections; goodness of fit for child
 - ✓ Call the family's worker and ask questions if the PPA doesn't address something
 - ✓ These families want your children! Ask for things that you want/need from them
- Thoroughly vet their agencies
 - ✓ Training that they provide; post placement services that they provide; any requirements they have
 - ✓ Interact with the agency to get a sense of their responsiveness and availability
- Educate yourself on what is and is not available within your own agency
 - ✓ Purchase of Service fees
 - ✓ Any funds or in-kind resources available to support the placements
- Send the initial ICPC packet as soon as possible when you identify a family and keep ICPC informed
 - ✓ You can send ICPC packets on multiple families
 - ✓ Partner with your ICPC program consultant and ask questions if you need guidance
- Be clear about what your expectations are with the family and with their agency
 - ✓ Birth family connections to maintain; resources to utilize; the child's preferences; what to expect with ICPC; post placement services and supervision requirements.
 - ✓ Open and clear communication will help to minimize placement disruption (and minimize extra work)
- Start slow! Do not rush the transition to placement
 - ✓ Show the child the family's lifebook; exchange letters/cards; telephone calls/skype contact
 - ✓ Family can attend treatment team and school meetings by phone, or talk with the child's therapist
 - ✓ Share insights you have that will help the family get as clear a picture as possible
 - ✓ First visit should always be in the child's safe space
- Be creative and think outside the box to support the family's visits with the child
 - ✓ Solicit donations from restaurants, hotels, or recreational businesses for food and fun
 - ✓ Perhaps family can stay with another foster family in the area with an empty room
 - ✓ Family can meet siblings, birth family, foster family, etc. (show importance of maintaining connections)
- Be organized and carefully plan the placement
 - ✓ Placement cannot occur until approved 100A is received from ICPC
 - ✓ Any final transition to placement is dependent on all services being in place prior to final move (school enrollment is complete, all paperwork signed)
 - ✓ Who will travel with the child (agency conversation)
 - ✓ Organize your trip carefully (you could meet with the agency that will be doing the post placement visits, with the child's new therapist, etc.)
- When in doubt, contact your NC Kids Program Consultant! We are here to help you and support your efforts to achieve permanence for NC's children!
 - ✓ Alamance – Cumberland: **Kim Best (919-527-6354, kimberly.best@dhhs.nc.gov)**
 - ✓ Currituck – Jackson: **Britt Cloudsdale (919-527-6358, britt.cloudsdale@dhhs.nc.gov)**
 - ✓ Johnston – Polk: **Erin Baluyot (919-527-6369, erin.baluyot@dhhs.nc.gov)**
 - ✓ Randolph – Yancy: **Sharon Wynn (919-527-6357, Sharon.wynn@dhhs.nc.gov)**

PLACEMENT OR VISIT



NC DHHS
Interstate Services
ICPC County Assignment
10-2013

Charlene	Rebekah	Lakecia	Sherita	Debra
Alamance 01	Beaufort 07	Brunswick 10	Alexander 02	Bladen 09
Allegany 03	Bertie 08	Columbus 24	Anson 04	Durham 32
Caswell 17	Camden 15	Cumberland 26	Ashe 05	Henderson 45
Chatham 19	Carteret 16	Duplin 31	Avery 06	Moore 63
Dare 28	Chowan 21	Harnett 43	Buncombe 11	New Hanover 65
Davidson 29	Craven 25	Hoke 47	Burke 12	Person 73
Davie 30	Currituck 27	Lee 53	Cabarrus 13	Pitt 74
Forsyth 34	Edgecombe 33	Lenoir 54	Caldwell 14	Randolph 76
Franklin 35	Gaston 36	Nash 64	Catawba 18	Richmond 77
Granville 39	Gates 37	Orange 68	Cherokee 20	Robeson 78
Halifax 42	Greene 40	Scotland 83	Clay 22	Rockingham 79
Hyde 48	Guilford 41	Stanly 84	Cleveland 23	Rowan 80
Iredell 49	Hertford 46	Stokes 85	Graham 38	Rutherford 81
Johnston 51	Martin 58	Surry 86	Haywood 44	Sampson 82
Jones 52	Northampton 66	Swain 87	Jackson 50	Union 90
Lincoln 55	Onslow 67	Transylvania 88	Macon 56	Washington 94
Mecklenburg 60	Pamlico 69	Vance 91	Madison 57	Wayne 96
Montgomery 62	Pasquotank 70	Wake 92	McDowell 59	Wilkes 97
Tyrell 89	Pender 71	Warren 93	Mitchell 61	Wilson 98
Yadkin 99	Perquimans 72	Watauga 95	Polk 75	Yancey 100
International Private Agencies Independent Charlene.Timmons@dhhs.nc.gov	International Private Agencies Independent Rebekah.Nelson@dhhs.nc.gov	International Private Agencies Independent Lakecia.Knight@dhhs.nc.gov	International Private Agencies Independent Sherita.Wright@dhhs.nc.gov	International Private Agencies Independent Debra.McHenry@dhhs.nc.gov
919-527-6395	919-527-6398	919-527-6397	919-527-6394	919-527-6396

Revised by Carla McNeill
Effective 10/17/2013

INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN CHECKLIST FOR INTERSTATE PLACEMENT REQUESTS:

A How To Guide On Completing An ICPC Referral

The Information Listed Below Applies to Public Agency Placements (Except Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Placements)

- A. ☐ Cover letter requesting ICPC services
- B. ☐ ICPC 100A completed and signed by agency staff
- C. ☐ ICPC 100B completed and signed by agency staff if family unit has already moved
- D. ☐ Current custody order
- E. ☐ Current case history for the child
- F. ☐ Case medical/financial plan on each child along with documentation of IV-E eligibility and/or adoption assistance eligibility
- G. ☐ Service/Case/Permanency Plan
- H. ☐ Copy of Birth Certificate and Social Security Card
- I. ☐ Psychological evaluation
- J. ☐ Educational information
- K. ☐ Medical Information
- L. ☐ Case manager Statement of Interest as required for Regulations 2 & 7
- M. ☐ ICPC 101 Priority Home Study Request completed for all Expedited Requests
- N. ☐ Expedited court order for Regulation 7 (expedited) cases (**remember expedited requests should be in the NC ICPC within 3 days**)
- O. ☐ **If an adoptive placement**, include legal clearance documents & adoption profile.
- P. ☐ **If an adoptive placement**, include pre-placement assessment, if available
- Q. ☐ **If an adoptive placement**, include background information on birth family

Additional guidance:

Items A-L should always be included in the placement request in triplicate copies per placement resource. The only exception is the 100A, which requires 5 copies per child.

Items M-Q are conditional and are based on the type of placement requested. When these items are included in the request, please include triplicate copies per placement resource. Remember 5 copies per child of the 100A. ICPC 101 will always be the top page in all Expedited Requests.

Arrange packages with the cover letter and other common documents to all children on top; put the child specific information underneath.

For additional assistance in preparing a request for ICPC, please contact the North Carolina Division of Social Services' ICPC office at 919-527-6390.

INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN REQUEST

Please type

TO:

FROM: N.C. Division of Social Services

820 S. Boylan Ave., 1st Floor, McBryde Building East
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-2246

SECTION I - IDENTIFYING DATA

Notice is given of intent to place - Name of Child:			Ethnicity: Hispanic Origin: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to determine/unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	
Social Security Number		ICWA Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Race: <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> White	
Sex:	Date of Birth	Title IV-E determination <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Pending		
Name of Mother			Name of Father:	
Name of Agency or Person Responsible for Planning for Child:				Phone:
Address:				
Name of Agency or Person Financially Responsible for Child:				Phone:
Address:				

SECTION II - PLACEMENT INFORMATION

Name of Person(s) or Facility Child is to be placed with:		Soc Sec # (optional):	
		Soc Sec # (optional):	
Address:		Phone:	
Type of Care Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Family Home <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Treatment Center <input type="checkbox"/> Group Home Care <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional Care-Article VI, Adjudicated Delinquent <input type="checkbox"/> Child Caring Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Relative (Not Parent) Relationship: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTION <input type="checkbox"/> IV-E Subsidy <input type="checkbox"/> Non IV-E Subsidy To Be Finalized In: <input type="checkbox"/> Sending State <input type="checkbox"/> Receiving State			
Current Legal Status of Child: <input type="checkbox"/> Sending Agency Custody/Guardianship <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Relative Custody/Guardianship <input type="checkbox"/> Court Jurisdiction Only <input type="checkbox"/> Protective Supervision <input type="checkbox"/> Parental Rights Terminated-Right to Place for Adoption <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied Refugee Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			

SECTION III - SERVICES REQUESTED

Initial Report Requested (if applicable): <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Home Study <input type="checkbox"/> Relative Home Study <input type="checkbox"/> Adoptive Home Study <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Home Study	Supervisory Services Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Request Receiving State to Arrange Supervision <input type="checkbox"/> Another Agency Agreed to Supervise <input type="checkbox"/> Sending Agency to Supervise	Supervisory Reports Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Annually <input type="checkbox"/> Upon Request <input type="checkbox"/> Other
--	--	--

Name and Address of Supervising Agency in Receiving State:			
Enclosed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Child's Social History	<input type="checkbox"/> Court Order	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial/Medical Plan
	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Study of Placement Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> ICWA Enclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> IV-E Eligibility Documentation
Signature of Sending Agency or Person:			Date:
Signature of Sending State Compact Administrator, Deputy or Alternate:			Date:

SECTION IV - ACTION BY RECEIVING STATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III(d) of ICPC

<input type="checkbox"/> Placement may be made	<input type="checkbox"/> Placement shall not be made
REMARKS:	
Signature of Receiving State Compact Administrator, Deputy or Alternate:	Date:

DISTRIBUTION (Complete six (6) copies):

* Sending Agency retains a (1) copy and forwards completed original plus four (4) copies to:

* Sending Compact Administrator, DCA, or alternate retains a (1) copy and forwards completed original and three (3) copies to:

* Receiving Agency Compact Administrator, DCA, or alternate who indicates action (Section IV) and forwards a (1) copy to receiving agency and the completed original and one (1) copy to sending Compact Administrator, DCA, or alternate within 30 days.

* Sending Compact Administrator, DCA, or alternate retains a completed copy and forwards the completed original to the sending agency.

DSS-1837 (Rev. 03/2014)

Child Welfare Services

NC Interstate Compact
Regulation # 2 Case Manager Statement of Interest

Sending County: _____

Identifying Information of Placement Resource

Full Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit #

City State County ZIP Code

Home Phone: () _____ **Alternate Phone:** () _____

E-mail Address: _____

Employer Name and phone number: _____

Start Date: _____ **Salary:** \$ _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Spouse's Employer: _____ **Alternate Phone number:** () _____

Number and Type of Rooms In The Home

Number of Bedrooms **Number of Adults residing in the home**

Number of Other Rooms **Number of Children currently residing in the home**

Square footage of home

Other Adults in the Home

<i>Name</i>	<i>DOB</i>	<i>Contact Information (if different from above)</i>

NC Interstate Compact

Regulation # 2 Case Manager Statement of Interest

Signed Statement (check boxes to left and sign below)

☐

The potential placement resource is interested in being a placement resource for the child and is willing to cooperate with the ICPC process.

☐

The Placement resource acknowledges that criminal records and child abuse history checks will be completed on any persons residing in the home according to the law of the receiving State. To the best knowledge of the placement resource, no one residing in the home has a criminal or child abuse history that would prohibit the placement.

☐

The placement resource acknowledges that they either have or will access financial resources to feed, cloth and care for the child

☐

I have completed and am prepared to send all required paperwork to the sending State ICPC office, including the [ICPC 100 A](#), and/or [ICPC 100 B](#). (Instructions for completing the [ICPC 100A](#) and [ICPC100B](#) are available on line, along with a [checklist](#).)

Date of Discussion _____

Case
Manager

First and Last Name of Worker

Date

Case
Manager

Print Name

Supervisor

First and Last Name of Worker

Date

Supervisor

Print Name

Additional comments:

Tips and Strategies for Successful Out-of-State Adoptive Placements

Welcome!

Please click on the colored link below to download the
handout for today:
[Oct. 6, 2015 webinar handout](#)



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STATEWIDE TRAINING
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UNC

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK


Webinar Goals

By the end of this webinar we hope you will:

- Feel more comfortable with the process of placing children out of state for adoption
- Feel empowered to start a conversation in your agency about cross-jurisdictional placements and the benefits
- Better understand the ICPC process and know how and when to start this process

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Agenda



- Orientation & introductions
- Why consider out-of-state adoptions?
- Assessing families & vetting agencies
- ICPC basics
- Q & A

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Panelists


Jamie Bazemore
Kimberly Best
Rebekah Richmond
Charlene Timmons

Moderator

Mellicent Blythe

Tech Support

Phillip Armfield
John McMahon

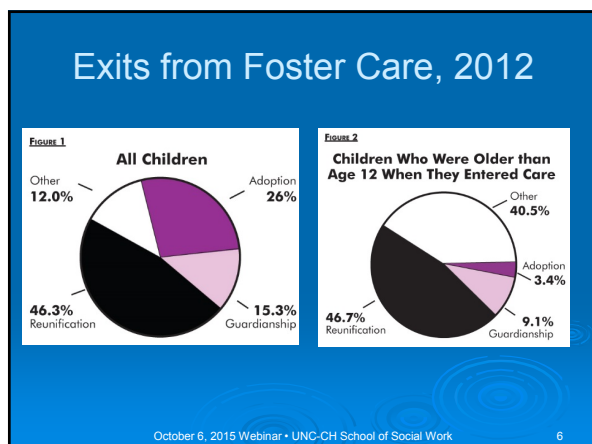


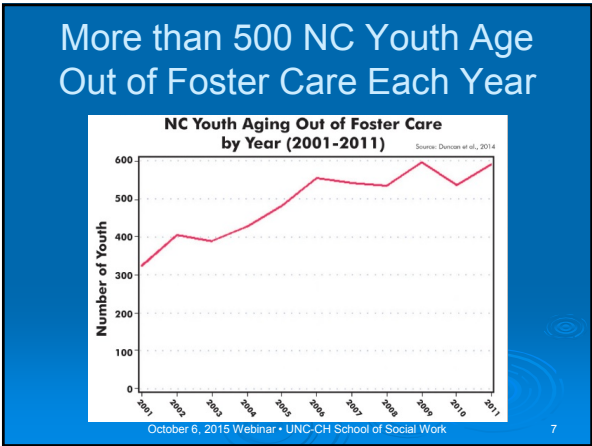
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Why Consider Out-of-State Adoptions?

5





Open Child Inquiries (0)

Inactive Cases (0)

Missing Photos (0)

Quick Find

Child Lookup

Family Lookup

Professional Lookup

Child Cases

By Drafts (0)

By Assigned Children

Register a Child or Siblings

Search for Families

Family Cases

By Drafts (0)

By Assigned Families

Register a Family

Search for Children

Agency Reports

Activity Summary

Child Report

Family Report

Searching on behalf of:

Name: Jose "Negot"

Case #: NC10570-3556

[Back to child profile](#)

Find a family results

MODIFY SEARCH RESULTS

Showing 1 to 4 of 4

Page 1 of 1

Name: Mark and Robert Buchanan

Date updated: 7/31/2015

Case #: 00009385

State: North Carolina

Bob works from home as a Quality Analyst for a behavioral health company. Mark is a cardiac nurse at a university hospital. We have been together for 17...

[View Full Profile](#)

[ADD TO FAMILY RESOURCE LIST](#)

Name: Sandra and Wayne Taylor

Date updated: 7/29/2015

Case #: 00013905

State: North Carolina

The Picture is from February 2015. Family description: We are a children focused family. There are 8 children in our family (six boys) Four girls...

[View Full Profile](#)

[ADD TO FAMILY RESOURCE LIST](#)

Open Child Inquiries (0)

Inactive Cases (0)

Missing Photos (0)

Quick Find

Child Lookup

Family Lookup

Professional Lookup

Child Cases

By Drafts (0)

By Assigned Children

Register a Child or Siblings

Search for Families

Family Cases

By Drafts (0)

By Assigned Families

Register a Family

Search for Children

Agency Reports

Activity Summary

Child Report

Family Report

Searching on behalf of:

Name: Jose "Negot"

Case #: NC10570-3556

[Back to child profile](#)

Find a family results

MODIFY SEARCH RESULTS

Showing 1 to 15 of 108

Page 1 of 8

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Go to page

Go

Name: Miranda and Daniel Chavez

Date updated: 8/12/2015

Case #: 00009541

State: Maine

Our family consists of my husband Dan, our 13 year old daughter Lily and myself. Miranda. We have three Labrador retrievers and two right outside of...

[View Full Profile](#)

[ADD TO FAMILY RESOURCE LIST](#)

Name: Sandra and Robert Witherspoon

Date updated: 8/11/2015

Case #: 00052492

State: South Carolina

We are a loving military family that is seeking to adopt. We have been lucky enough to have 2 gorgeous children. Our son is 12 and our daughter is 10...

[View Full Profile](#)

[ADD TO FAMILY RESOURCE LIST](#)

Assessing Families & Vetting Agencies

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Assessing Families

- Leave your biases at the door
- Does the family meet the general criteria for your child (space, safety, children in the home, etc.)?
- Does the family have access to services (medical, therapeutic, educational) that your child needs?
- Does the family have the training and/or licensure that your agency requires?



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Assessing Families, cont.

- Does the family have the willingness (emotionally and logistically) to support birth family connections?
- Are there specific things about the family that stand out as a match for the child (specific parenting experience, likes, hobbies, personality traits, family composition, etc.)?
- If the PPA doesn't answer these questions, or others, don't just rule a family out – call the family's worker and ask questions.

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Vetting Agencies

- What type of supportive services does the agency provide to the family and child after placement?
- Interact with the agency to determine their availability and willingness to respond



- Explore how Medicaid works in their state
- Does the family's agency require purchase of service fees? If so, does your agency pay and how much?

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Purchase of Service Fees

State funds available for adoption services from specialized out-of-state providers when adoption resources are not available in state for special needs children:

- Pre-placement assessment
- Preparation of family
- Pre-placement visits
- Placement services
- Post-placement services
- Recruitment
- Adoption-related legal services

\$1,800 per child
available
from NC DSS

[10A NCAC 70M.0501](#)

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You've Selected a Family. Now What?

- Discuss the characteristics of the family with the youth if appropriate. Introduce the "maybe family" language.
- Make contact with the family's social worker to determine family's availability/continued interest. Introduce the "maybe family" language.
- Schedule initial meeting between agency and family
- Take time to consider details

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Initiating the ICPC Process

- Submit your ICPC request as soon as possible
- Talk with the family and their agency about the ICPC process and what to expect
- Talk with the family and their agency about your expectations for contacts and visits

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Beginning Contact

- Exchange letters, telephone calls, Skype
- Have the family attend (via phone or skype) a treatment team meeting or talk to the child's therapist to get a true and current sense of the child's needs prior to meeting
- Share any detailed, insightful information about the child and their history that might not have been shared in the child's adoptive profile



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Rethinking Visits and How We Begin Facilitating Contact in Adoptive Placements

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Visits

- Have the family come to the child in their safe space first and transition elsewhere from there
- Think outside the box when it comes to facilitating visits
 - Resources in the community, other foster parents, gift certificates or vouchers from hotels/restaurants/recreational activities
- Do not send your child to visit a family out of state without first consulting with ICPC
- Who travels with the child for visits?

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Maintaining Connections

- When family is coming to visit the child, they should meet the people with whom connections need to be maintained
- Social worker needs to play an active part in establishing these relationships and encouraging them as resources



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Placement



- Final transition to placement is dependent on all services being in place (school enrollment complete, all consents signed, all paperwork signed and completed prior to final move)

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ICPC Basics

for Social Workers Considering Out-of-State Adoptions

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What Is ICPC?

- o Federal law that ensures protection and services to children placed across state lines for foster care and adoption
- o Establishes procedures and responsibilities for wide range of interstate placements
- o Ensures each state has complete information prior to child's placement
- o NC DSS is Compact Administrator: point of contact for all interstate placements

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Visits Prior to Your Out-of-State Placement (ICPC Regulation 9)

Visit	Placement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Provides social or cultural experience of short duration<ul style="list-style-type: none">• E.g., stay at camp or with friend or relative➤ Less than 30 days<ul style="list-style-type: none">• unless it begins and ends during school vacation➤ From outset has set end date	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Proposed stay of more than 30 days, or end date is not set or unclear➤ Pending request for home study or supervision

Distinguished on the basis of *purpose, duration, and intention*

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Preparing to Submit an ICPC Request

- The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) currently has (12) regulations.
<http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-70/man/PDF%20docs/ICPCsIII.pdf>
- ICPC Regulation 2 should be used for:
 - Placements for public adoption, foster care, parents and relatives
 - Children not yet placed with prospective placement resource
 - Foster parents becoming adoptive parents

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Making A Referral

Please reference
ICPC Checklist DSS-5255

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Additional Financial and Medical Plan Tips

In most instances, the potential resource will need to be licensed for foster care

Licensing

- due to IV-E eligibility of the child, or requirements of the receiving state, or the specific needs of the child

Medical

- Medicaid eligibility in the other state may depend on the child's IV-E status

Child Care

- if the family is expected to pay or a subsidy will be provided

Education

- tuition payments are required by some localities in other states

Please discuss any questions with your ICPC Consultant

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Violation of Compact

- Sending state bears full liability and responsibility for safety of the child
- Receiving state may request immediate removal of the child
- Receiving state may proceed under Reg.2, but is not required to proceed with home study/ICPC decision process as long as child is placed in violation

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Processing Requests

- The potential adoptive family is identified and may need to be licensed for foster care
- Worker submits the ICPC requests to our office
- ICPC reviews the request and submits to the receiving state for a child specific home study
- If the request cannot go through a public agency in the receiving state, we will follow up with you individually to consider other resources.

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Safe and Timely Home Study Report

- Must be completed and returned within 60 calendar days
- Report not same as placement decision, must include reason for delay in decision and anticipated date of decision
- Assess safety and suitability of placement resource

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Supervision

This is indicated on the 100A and should be marked if supervision in the receiving state is needed

Must supervise if sending state requested and:

- Request came from a public child placing agency
- Agency completed the home study for placement of child

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Supervision

- Begins with receipt of 100B
- Continues until
 - Child reaches age of majority or is legally emancipated
 - Adopted
 - No longer resides at the home approved for placement

When supervision is no longer needed, a 100B is needed to close the case.

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Adoption Finalization/ Case Closed

- Step 1: A placement is considered
- Step 2: the placement is approved by the receiving state
- Step 3: the placement is made and supervised
- Step 4: Adoption Finalization

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Follow-up Document from the Webinar

Tips and Strategies for Successful Out-of-State Adoptive Placements

Webinar delivered Oct. 6, 2015
Follow-up document date: Oct. 13, 2015

Presenters

NC DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Charlene Timmons and Rebekah Richmond
Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Team
Child Welfare Services Section

Jamie Bazemore and Kim Best
NC Kids Team
Child Welfare Services Section

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NC Division of Social Services

Webinar handouts: https://ncswlearn.org/ncsts/webinar/handouts/37_webinar_handouts_10_06_15.pdf

Recording: if you missed the webinar or want to view it again, go to: <http://fcrp.unc.edu/webinars.asp>

Answers and Resources from the Webinar

NC Kids

Regarding purchase of services fees and the \$1,800 available from North Carolina: if the adoptive placement fails, would another \$1,800 be available again for another adoptive placement?

No, the Administrative Rule is interpreted strictly to limit a maximum of \$1,800.00 per child regardless of the number of adoptive placements. The rules can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1MzSpgS>.

Regarding purchase of services fees: is the \$1,800 in addition to funds that might be available to cover non-reoccurring fees?

Yes. The purchase of service fees are separate from the non-recurring fees. In addition, the purchase of services fees are only used when placing special needs children outside of North Carolina.

As we consider families interested in adoption, can or should we give priority to families from North Carolina (as opposed to those from another state)?

No. Best practice in adoption is to always assess families based on the child's needs and the child's best interests. The key question here is, "Is this family the best match for the child?" The family's ability to care for the child should be what matters to us, not the state in which they live.

If they haven't already, do families from out of state need to go through MAPP?

It depends on the family's strengths and needs. The training they have received should be part of a larger conversation you have with the family about what you think the family needs to effectively parent this child. Different states use a variety of training curriculums. Some you may consider comparable to MAPP, others not.

A Participant's Recommendation for Maintaining Connections:

- Plan a joint vacation/get-together with siblings who are not placed together

Additional Recommendation for Maintaining Connections:

- Have siblings skype or talk on the phone weekly
- Instead of letters, keep a special journal that siblings send back and forth once a month, writing to each other on a regular basis
- Send pictures and videos constantly
- If the children have their own phones, help them send pictures and videos to each other
- Take joint vacations with former foster parents or ask them to babysit the children for long weekends or when adoptive parents need to travel for an extended period of time (i.e., continue using shared parenting between former foster parents and the adoptive parents)
- Attend birth family functions such as vacations and family reunions if the intent is to maintain birth family connections

A Personal Perspective

From Joe Allen, Jackson County DSS: I've been a foster care worker for almost 10 years. My wife and I have had recent personal experience being on the other side of the desk with all this -- we are adopting my nephews from Texas. I can reiterate as both a social worker and as a pre-adoptive family what Jamie Bazemore is teaching regarding communication (about going slowly to ensure families have a full sense of the child's needs) is of the utmost importance. If anyone has any questions feel free to send them to me (jallen@jcdss.org). I'll add that to adopt we became licensed; it makes the ICPC home study process smoother in my opinion. In addition, it can mean monthly foster care stipends until such time as the adoption is finalized.

NC Kids Is a Resource

- NC Kids has a listserv that we use to send out information and training opportunities. If you would like to be added to our listserv, please email your consultant.
- NC Kids can support you if you have trouble at any point in the out-of-state (or in-state) adoption process.

ICPC

What is the difference between ICPC Regulation 2 and Regulation 7?

Regulation 2 refers to cases where the child is under the jurisdiction of a court for abuse, neglect, and dependency as a result of action taken by a child welfare agency. Regulation 2 allows states 60 days to complete a home study, as determined by P.L. 109-239. Most of the cases processed through ICPC fall under this category, as this allows for foster care and adoption placements.

Regulation 7 only applies to cases where the child is under court jurisdiction or in DSS custody, the planned placement is with a determined relative as defined in ICPC policy, and the child meets one of the four criteria listed in policy to “expedite” the request. This allows the court to request an expedited home study. Regulation 7 does not apply to foster care or adoptive placements or when the child has already been placed. Other exemptions are listed in the policy.

In summary, Regulation 2 cases are standard ICPC cases and are processed within 60 days. Regulation 7 cases are court ordered to be expedited and are limited to relative cases as defined in ICPC policy (<http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-70/man/PDF%20docs/ICPCsIII.pdf>).

If we have an approved adoptive home study, would the ICPC process be only a request to place a child in the pre-adoptive home?

No, ICPC policy and regulations require that a child specific home study be completed before a placement occurs. ICPC is looking for a recommendation specific to the child being placed, not a general approved adoptive home study.

Would the original ICPC packet include the family’s adoptive home study?

Yes, NC’s ICPC office would need to have a copy of the pre-placement assessment included in the request. Remember, if it is a general adoptive pre-placement assessment, an additional, child-specific pre-placement assessment and recommendation will be required before placement can occur.

Why (under what circumstances) would an ICPC request not be able to go to a public agency in another state?

Typically, an ICPC request will go to a public agency in another state. Sometimes families in other states have had a private agency do their general home study. That agency may request to continue the process through Purchase of Service Fees. This means the NC County DSS will have to contract with that agency, which is often a financial barrier. Using the services of another local public agency eliminates this barrier and is more common. There may be situations where the child is in need of substantial therapeutic and medical services that would be better served through a private agency in another state. This would be a child-specific determination that should be discussed with your NC DSS ICPC consultant ahead of time.

This was not covered in the webinar, but the most common reason that an ICPC referral would not be forwarded to a public agency in another state is failure to comply with the ICPC procedures and regulations as outlined in the North Carolina Division of Social Services’ Interstate/Intercountry policy (<http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-70/man/>).

If the family has an approved home study through a private agency, can you ask the private agency for placement approval?

Regardless of whether a private or public agency is providing supervision, the final formal “placement approval” will always need to be from NC’s ICPC office, even in situations where a contractual agreement exists with a private agency. North Carolina General Statute 7B-3800 and the national ICPC administrative support AAICPC (Association of Administrators of ICPC) provide the legal and administrative framework for NC’s ICPC office. In this situation your agency would enter into a contract with the private agency to provide ongoing services to the family. Often we see this when the child has therapeutic or medical needs a public agency can’t or won’t take on.

Could we place the child and, during the six months the child is in the home, request a child-specific home study?

No. This would be a violation of ICPC. You need ICPC approval prior to placing the child out of state. Regulations requiring this approval can be found at <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-70/man/>.

Consider this case example: 4 Connecticut children are in NC. While here, they came into DSS custody. Their parents are in Connecticut. ICPC is done on relatives in Connecticut for placement so the children can be placed in Connecticut, but that state requires payment from us for relatives to adopt. The children are from Connecticut. Is it really NC's responsibility to pay?

Yes, because NC has custody of the children. For this same reason, NC will sometimes pay foster care stipends to licensed foster homes in other states and NC will be responsible for any adoption assistance that the children are eligible for.

Adoption Assistance eligibility is defined by federal regulations as indicated in the box below. Also, it would be recommended that the NC ICPC consultant is contacted immediately to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.

1. Question: Which State is responsible for entering into an adoption assistance agreement in interstate adoptions?

Answer: If the State agency has responsibility for placement and care of a child, that State is responsible for entering into the adoption assistance agreement and paying the title IV-E adoption subsidy, even if the child is placed in an adoptive home in another State. If the State agency does not have responsibility for placement and care, it is the adoptive parents' State of residence where the adoption assistance application should be made. In that event, the public child welfare agency in the adoptive parents' State of residence is responsible for determining whether the child meets the definition of special needs, entering into the adoption assistance agreement and paying the subsidy, consistent with the way public benefits are paid in other programs.

- **Source/Date:** ACYF-CB-PA-01-01 (1/23/01)
- **Legal and Related References:** Social Security Act - section 473
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/policy_dsp.jsp?citID=139.

Is it true children in DSS custody must be in a licensed placement unless a court approves otherwise?

If a child is in agency DSS custody and is legally free for adoption, the placement does not have to be licensed, but rather approved as an adoptive family with an approved Preplacement Assessment. However, licensure becomes necessary if foster care stipends will be paid until the adoption is finalized. There are financial and medical considerations that are imperative to a successful placement; whether a family is licensed may have financial implications that should be addressed within your agency.

If you are considering placing a child in an unlicensed, out-of-state adoptive home, please contact your NC ICPC consultant for further guidance. As the NC Adoption Services Policy Manual states about out-of-state placements, "Frequently, it will be desirable or essential that the home to which the child is going be licensed (or "approved," the term used in some states) as a foster home. For North Carolina's children going to other states, the home must be licensed or approved if foster care payments are to be continued until finalization of the adoption; and/or the child is being placed on a 'legal risk' basis." http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-50/man/CSs1303.htm#P23_295.