

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 9: Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)	Effective Date: December 1, 2013
	Section 6: International Adoptions	Version: 2

POLICY

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) requires approval by the DCS Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) Office of all foreign-born children who are waiting to be placed with and subsequently adopted by Indiana families. A home study and five (5) copies of the [ICPC Request \(SF106/100A\)](#) must be sent to the DCS ICPC Office along with three (3) identical copies of the referral packet containing:

1. Social History of the child which includes:
 - a. Pertinent history regarding birth parents;
 - b. Development information; and
 - c. Documentation of availability for adoption.
2. Medical History of the child which includes:
 - a. Physical examination within the past six (6) months;
 - b. Physical/emotional problems which might have an impact on the placement; and
 - c. The child's emotional ability to accept the adoption (if applicable).
3. Legal Documents which must be in the native language of the country, accompanied by certified English translations which includes:
 - a. Attestation of the legal availability of the child for adoption; and
 - b. Court order of guardianship or other legal status.
4. Surety Bond of \$10,000 or letter of agency responsibility in the event of a placement disruption.

In accordance with Indiana law, a child whose adoption is finalized by an adoption decree in the country of origin is considered to be adopted. Furthermore, these children enter the United States immediately eligible to become United States citizens.

[REVISED] The [United States Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\)](#) may, at its discretion, require that the DCS ICPC Office approve an adoption finalized in another country. DCS will comply with the USCIS decision to review the appropriateness of the adoption and the adoptive home.

Code References

1. [IC 31-28-4: Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children](#)
2. [IC-31-19-28: Adoption Decrees in Foreign Jurisdictions](#)

PROCEDURE

See **Related Information** for steps that occur prior to DCS ICPC Office involvement for adoptions that are finalized both in or outside the United States.

The DCS ICPC Office will work with the family to coordinate all necessary action for adoptions finalized outside the United States.

[REVISED] For adoptions finalized in the United States, the ICPC Consultant will, within five (5) business days of receiving the referral and home study from an outside agency:

1. Review the referral and home study;
2. Determine if the referral will be approved;
3. Email a letter to USCIS, advising that the prospective adoptive requirements for the adoptive placement of the specific child have been met if the referral is approved; or
4. Notify the agency arranging the adoption and attempt to rectify the issues if the referral is not approved.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

N/A

FORMS AND TOOLS

[ICPC Request \(SF106/100A\)](#)

RELATED INFORMATION

For adoptions finalized outside the United States

USCIS will:

1. Notify the family of the decision to review the appropriateness of the adoption and the adoptive home; and
2. Provide the family with the DCS ICPC Office's contact information.

The family will contact the DCS ICPC Office upon receiving notification from USCIS.

For adoptions finalized in the United States

The agency arranging the adoption will:

1. Assure that a home study of the adoptive parents is completed. See Related Information for details on what must be included;
2. Update the home study annually until adoption occurs;
3. Conduct all necessary background checks;
4. Complete an [ICPC Request \(SF106/100A\)](#), if the agency is located in a state other than Indiana;
5. Submit five (5) copies of the [ICPC Request \(SF106/100A\)](#), if applicable, and the home study to the DCS ICPC Office;
6. Assure that once the adoption is completed, the appropriate information is sent to the clerk of courts in the county the family resides in, so that a new birth certificate can be prepared; and
7. Provide verification of the child's date of birth.

ICPC Home Study Requirements

The summary must include all of the following information:

1. Responses by all adults in the proposed adoptive home to the following questions:
 - a. Have you ever been arrested?
 - b. Do you have a history of substance abuse?
 - c. Do you have a history of sexual or child abuse?
 - d. Do you have a history of domestic violence?
 - e. Have you ever been rejected as a prospective adoptive parent or been the subject of an unfavorable adoptive family assessment?

2. Documentation of the following:
 - a. The United States-based agency's name, or contact person; or
 - b. Agency in the foreign country coordinating the adoption;
 - c. The name of the state in which the adoption will be finalized;
 - d. The proposed adoptive parents' types and amounts of insurance policies;
 - e. Whether the parents have health insurance that will cover the child; and
 - f. Verification of the child's date of birth.

3. Assessments of the following:
 - a. The adoptive parents' motivation for adopting a foreign-born child;
 - b. The attitude of the adoptive family, extended adoptive family, and the community toward the parents' adoption of a child from a different race and culture;
 - c. The appropriateness of the adoptive parents' plans for preserving the child's cultural heritage and assisting the child in understanding and appreciating the child's own racial and cultural background;
 - d. How the adoptive parents plan to cope with any unanticipated behavioral and medical problems; and
 - e. The parents' financial stability, including specific income figures, total assets and liabilities.