



CDSS

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DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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GOVERNOR

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

May 14, 2014

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) NO. I-25-14

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
 ALL COUNTY INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN (ICPC) LIAISONS  
 ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS  
 ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES

SUBJECT: WORKING WITH FAMILIES WHO MOVE INTERSTATE

The purpose of this ACIN is to provide counties with promising practices intended to reduce barriers to the provision of child welfare services to intact families who relocate to other states. The practices identified below are encouraged if a California child welfare agency is currently providing either emergency response or voluntary family maintenance services, and the parent(s) retain full care and custody of the child(ren).

Making efforts to ensure the safety of children whose families move across state lines can be challenging. Some families may be relocating to avoid removal of their children whereas others may be moving to be closer to extended family members who can offer support to mitigate the need for further child welfare intervention. When a family has an open emergency response referral indicating safety or risk factors that need to be fully investigated or mitigated and moves to another jurisdiction unexpectedly, caseworkers are encouraged to do the following:

- 1) If the caseworker knows the location where the family has moved the caseworker may contact the child welfare agency in the state to which the family is believed to have moved. This may be accomplished by contacting the receiving states' child abuse hotline or, if known, the local child welfare office.
- 2) If the caseworker is not sure of the exact city, the caseworker is encouraged contact the state level social services agency or Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Office to inform them that this family may be within their jurisdiction. This agency may accept the information or direct the caseworker to the most appropriate agency within their state designated to receive this type of

information. Some states may enter this information in their automated child welfare services system as an “alert” which informs their caseworkers that the family is known to California in the event a subsequent report of child abuse is received.

When the relocation of a family is a component of the case or safety plan, the caseworker is encouraged to obtain a release of information from the custodial parent that would allow for the sharing of information during and after the move to the new state. Providing the receiving state local or state child welfare agency with information possessed by the county enables the receiving state to understand the needs of the family and to determine whether a protective investigation should be initiated or services offered. After the move, caseworkers requesting a “well-child” or “welfare” check of a family residing in another state are encouraged to provide as much information as possible to assist the receiving state with assessing the safety and risk factors present in this family.

Additional practices that promote more effective communication and service delivery for families moving out of state include:

1. Direct communication between caseworkers in sending and receiving states.
2. Early and regular identification of relative resources who reside in or out of state to inform the need for home evaluations.
3. Having an in-county or in-state expert on interjurisdictional issues available for legal or casework consultation on interstate cases.

Please note that the ICPC does not apply to those children who remain in the care, custody and control of their parents or guardians, relocate to a new state with their parents or guardians, and are neither dependents of the Juvenile Court nor the subject of a petition. If caseworkers are unclear as to whether the ICPC applies they are encouraged to consult with their county ICPC liaisons or contact the Officer of the Day at the California Department of Social Services.

If you have any questions regarding the application of the ICPC, please contact the Officer of the Day at (916) 651-8100 or by email at [ICPC@dss.ca.gov](mailto:ICPC@dss.ca.gov). If you have any questions or need further information regarding these promising practices, please contact the Child Welfare Policy and Program Development Bureau at (916) 651-6160.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

ELLIE JONES, MSW, Chief  
Children’s Services Operations and Evaluations Branch  
Children and Family Services Division