

MANUAL TRANSMITTAL

Arkansas Department of Human Services
Division of Children and Family Services

Policy Form **Policy Directive**
Service Programs Policy Manual

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From: Roy Kindle, DCFS Director

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Subj.: Out-of-State Relative Placement – Financial and Planning Responsibility

EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE

Interstate Compact Placements

When Arkansas DCFS makes an agency placement request to another state, the form 100A (ICPC Request) and the financial/medical plan, shall indicate that DCFS is the **sending party** and will retain financial and planning responsibility for the child. If the **receiving state** gives approval for placement in their state, the sending state shall **not** recommend that custody be given to the placement resource without:

1. Completion of at least six months of supervision and the;
2. Concurrence of the receiving state.

Failure to comply with the above requirements violates the terms under which the receiving state originally gave placement approval. Such violations could result in the child and placement resource being without essential medical coverage because the foster care Medicaid case in Arkansas must be closed if the child is no longer in DCFS custody.

The Juvenile Code requires that children in child welfare agency custody be placed in licensed facilities or approved foster homes. Therefore, homes of parents and relatives approved under the Articles of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) will be considered approved foster homes, in accordance with the definitions contained in Arkansas Code Annotated 9-29-201. However, relatives are not eligible for foster care maintenance payments unless the receiving state certifies that they have met all of the licensing/approval standards for foster homes in that state. Please note that parents are **not** eligible for foster care maintenance payments.

In accordance with the Juvenile Code and DCFS policy, all potential relative placements outside of Arkansas will be given the same opportunity as in-state relative placements to choose to become paid foster homes. Both the child's foster care record and the request packet sent to ICPC will contain documentation that the out-of-state relatives were offered the option of becoming paid foster parents.

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