

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



July 17, 1990

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-53-90

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL PRESIDING JUVENILE COURT JUDGES
ALL COUNTY PROBATION OFFICES
ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL DSS ADOPTION DISTRICT OFFICES

SUBJECT: ICPC and the Independent Adoption Preplacement Program

REFERENCE: AB 2322 (Chapter 1142, Statutes of 1989)
ACL 90-02

The provisions of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), Civil Code (CC) Sections 264-274, govern the interstate placement of children for adoption and foster care. Assembly Bill 2322, the Independent Adoption Preplacement Program Act, was signed by the Governor on September 29, 1989 and the Act was effective January 1, 1990. All County Letter 90-02 issued January 9, 1990 provides information about implementation of the Act to California adoption agencies that elect to provide preplacement assessments and advising services within the state.

This ACIN addresses how the provisions of the Independent Adoption Preplacement Program Act and the ICPC operate when an out-of-state birth parent identifies a California family as the placement resource for his or her child in an independent adoption. It also provides other ICPC information.

The Adoptions Branch has informed the Interstate Placement Bureau (IPB) that only licensed California adoption agencies are authorized to provide the services under the Independent Adoption Preplacement Program and that those services may not be delegated to out-of-state agencies.

A family may elect to obtain an independent adoption preplacement assessment, as provided by CC Section 226.51 (c). When a child is identified in another ICPC member state, the placing agency, (the birth parent(s)) needs to submit a copy of the summary of the preplacement assessment with the Interstate Compact Placement Request (the ICPC 100 A form) and associated supporting documents to the sending state's ICPC administrator. The supporting documentation for an interstate independent adoption into California is listed in PUB 110 (1/88), "Independent Adoptive Placements Through The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children." A copy is attached. Additional copies are available from the State Department of Social Services (SDSS) Warehouse. The Compact Administrator in the sending state will forward the Request and supporting documents to the IPB.

Receipt of a complete Interstate Compact Placement Request packet, with the summary of the independent adoption preplacement assessment, will allow the IPB to respond to the Request without having to seek an ICPC preplacement report from the appropriate local public agency. For families participating in the preplacement program, this procedure will replace the current process of obtaining the ICPC preplacement study before IPB action is taken in the case.

To facilitate review and approval of the Interstate Compact Placement Request, a cover letter explaining that the placement resource is participating in the Independent Adoption Preplacement Program and that the summary of the assessment is enclosed should be included with the packet. Standard ICPC processes will be used to communicate our action to the placing agency, the birth parent(s).

IPB sends all parties to a proposed ICPC placement copies of all IPB actions. Frequent telephone call inquiries for status reports only take time away from case processing and delay the ICPC process. County staff will be notified by IPB staff when a referral package requires action, either by the California county or by the receiving State Compact Administrator and/or the receiving agency. Judicious use of telephone calls by county staff expedites IPB work processing.

IPB does not have the capability to accept or store independent adoption preplacement assessments or summaries which are not part of a specific ICPC referral packet. Please do not forward independent adoption preplacement assessment or summaries directly to IPB. Unsolicited preplacements assessments or summaries will be returned to the sender.

In regards to the transfer of case information between cases, IPB closes its independent adoption cases when a Request is withdrawn, the Request is disapproved or the adoption is finalized. The case files are confidentially destroyed when the Request is withdrawn. If the Request is disapproved or the adoption is finalized, the case file is transferred to the Master Adoption Index files maintained by the Adoption Branch. In addition, each Interstate Compact Placement Request is a separate case with a unique IPB case number. For the preceding reasons, IPB is not able to transfer one ICPC preplacement report from one case to another.

In other adoption matters, IPB will accept a complete, approved and updated relinquishment adoption home study, conducted by a licensed California adoption agency or SDSS Adoptions Branch District Office, as the ICPC preplacement report in an independent adoption. The approved home study must be current and updated with the information as to the specific child being proposed for placement, and the circumstances of the proposed placement. It must be submitted as part of the Interstate Compact Placement Request packet, or IPB will need to request an ICPC preplacement report from the appropriate public agency before it can take action on the Request.

I want to also take this opportunity to inform you that the State of New Jersey has enacted the ICPC. This means that all fifty states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands have enacted the Compact provisions into their laws and are members of the ICPC.

As of the date of this ACIN, the IPB will accept legible, fully and properly signed ICPC 100 A forms from the receiving State's ICPC Administrator via facsimile transmittal. IPB will then notify the California local sending agency, via standard procedures, of the action of the receiving state. When a receiving state has access to facsimile equipment and chooses to make use of this procedure, IPB will expect that the signed original ICPC 100 A form will immediately be forwarded using regular procedures.

Questions regarding the Independent Adoption Preplacement Program should be addressed to the Adoptions Policy Bureau at (916) 323-0524. Questions regarding the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children should be addressed to the Interstate Placement Bureau at (916) 323-2923.

Sincerely,



LOREN D. SUTER
Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services

cc: County Welfare Directors Association