INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE
PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is a complicated law which governs domestic adoptions.

As many of you know there was NO universal adoption law which applied to all adoptions in the United States. Every state did things their own way. However, in the 1960’s this changed with ICPC. ICPC placed some restrictions and guidelines for those who wanted to adopt a child from another state than the one in which they reside.

COMPLYING WITH ICPC

If you are adopting domestically what do you need to be aware of in regard to ICPC? To begin with, your home study needs to be completed and approved. Particularly, your FBI fingerprints must have cleared. This is a rather simple process however it may take up to 3 months to get the clearance. You should be aware there is no way of speeding this process up.

Every state does have its own interpretation of the ICPC guidelines. To discover the various state laws go to icpc.aphsa.org.

Regardless of the state, your home study and many other required documents will be submitted to the sending state (the state where the child resides) by your secondary agency. That state will review your home study and ensure everything is in order. They will correspond with the receiving state (Wisconsin). After Wisconsin approves the placement, they will notify you or Catholic Charities of the approval and permission to leave the sending state.

Be aware, the whole process may take up to a couple of weeks. You may not leave the sending state with your child UNTIL you have received approval.

You may wonder why it is so important for you to wait for that approval. It is the law and the consequences may include adoption petitions being dismissed, revoked birthparents’ consent and vacating orders terminating parental rights.

It may be inconvenient however it is not worth the risk of losing your child. If you have any questions about ICPC please contact your social worker.