

MICHIGAN STATE PAGE

COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR

Mary Mehren, Director PS/PC
Department of Human Services
Children's Service Administration
P. O. Box 30037
235 S. Grand Ave., 5th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Telephone: (517) 241-7521

DEPUTY COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR

Mary Chaliman
Department of Human Services
Children's Service Administration
P. O. Box 30037
235 S. Grand Ave., 5th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Telephone: (517) 335-4652

Adoptions

Dale L. Murray, Consultant
(517) 373-6918
E-mail: Murry02@michigan.gov

Foster Care

Marlene Sawdy, Consultant
(517) 373-7650
E-mail: SawdyM@michigan.gov

Address correspondence and Telephone Calls To: Appropriate consultant indicated above.

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Eastern Time Zone. (Daylight Savings Time: April through October).

FAX: (5-page limit): (517) 241-7047

GENERAL INFORMATION

ICPC Code Citation: MCL 3.711 through 3.717.

Statutory Penalties Under Article IV: Violation may be punished or subject to penalty in either jurisdiction in accordance with its laws. In addition to liability for any such punishment or penalty, any such violation shall constitute full and sufficient grounds for suspension or revocation of any license, permit, or legal authorization held by the sending agency.

Restriction on Importation of Children into Michigan (MCL 400.115c): Requires written approval by the Department of Human Services for placement of children into the state in family home of unrelated persons. Relative is defined as a relative within the 5th degree of affinity or consanguinity. If the plan is adoption; through a Michigan Circuit Court, Family Division prior approval of the judge in the county where the adoption is filed is also required.

Penalties: Violations of the adoption code (Placement into an adoptive home without rights of both parents being terminated and assessing fees not approved by the court), is a misdemeanor upon the first conviction and a felony upon subsequent convictions. Chapter X, Michigan Probate Code, MCL 710.21 et seq.

Placement of children in an unlicensed foster home is a misdemeanor. (MCL 722.125).

Age of Majority. 18 years. OMCL 722.1 and 722.4).

Court Jurisdiction: Circuit Court, Family Division, handles adoption, termination of rights, delinquency, abuse and neglect. Circuit Court handles divorce, support and custody.

MICHIGAN STATE PAGE

SPECIAL INFORMATION

Custody Investigation: Requests are to be forwarded to the local county Friend of the Court for Service.

REQUIREMENTS

Reports: Quarterly unless otherwise requested.

Licensing Requirements: License required for non-relative families, child caring institutions and private child placing agencies. Certification required of public agencies. (MCL 722.115).

PLACEMENTS

Adoption Petition: If the adoption is to occur under Michigan law, the local Circuit Court, Family Division must issue an order of placement prior to a child being placed in the home. To obtain the court order, the petition, home study, supporting documents and consent (unless specifically prohibited by the sending state's law) must be on file with the court prior to the adoption proceeding.

Independent Adoptive Placements: Effective January 1, 1995, Michigan law allows independent adoptions under certain circumstances.

Intercountry Adoptive Placements: Services are provided to requesting families by licensed private child placing agencies.

Interstate Adoption: Requests are referred to private agencies for service unless the child is related to the adoptive family within the 5th degree of affinity or consanguinity; or is a ward of another state. Such cases are referred to the appropriate local Michigan Department of Human Services office. The supervisory period for an adoptive placement is usually 6 months. Part or all of the supervisory period can be waived for good cause by petition to the Circuit Court, Family Division. Adoption must be completed within 18 months of placement, or the petition will be dismissed unless an appeal is pending.

Michigan extends comity to adoption laws of other states. If the adoptive placement is in Michigan but proceeding under the laws of another state and will be finalized in the other state, it will be considered a legal adoption in Michigan.

NOTE: Michigan law does not permit a non-Michigan licensed child placement agency to come into Michigan to place a child, do a home study, or perform any other part of the adoption process.

Voluntary Release of Parental Rights: Parents may voluntarily release their parental rights to a private child placing agency or to the Michigan Department of Human Services. A voluntary release must occur in the Circuit Court, Family Division. (NOTE: If the adoption is to occur in Michigan, the rights of BOTH parents must be terminated regardless of the marital status of the parents).

Adoption Central Agency: The Adoption Code establishes an Adoption Central Registry for birth parent's statements of consent or denial to release of identifying information to adult (age 18) adoptees.

MICHIGAN STATE PAGE

The law requires release of non-identifying information upon request to adult adoptees, adoptive parents and birth parents.

Residential Placements: Placements into residential or group facilities require Interstate approval.

-Requirements for Placements: ICPC-100A, child summary, diagnostic evaluation and custody documents (unless private placement). Additional requirement may be established by the individual facilities.

-Monitoring of the Child: The sending agency is responsible for arrangements made for the purpose of supervising and monitoring.

-Philosophy for Placement of Non-Resident Youth: Placements must comply with the ICPC and should be in the best interest of the child and should only occur when an appropriate treatment facility does not exist within the sending state.

Requirements for Foster Care Placements: Licensing of all non-relative foster home placements is required. Children placed from Michigan outside the state are to be in homes which meet the licensure, approval, or certification requirements of the receiving state.

PAYMENTS

Foster Care Payments: When payment is made for a Michigan ward placed in foster care in another state, Michigan's foster care rates are used. The foster home must meet the licensing, approval or certification requirements of receiving state.

AFDC Payments: Payments may be provided for out-of-state children placed with relatives in Michigan if eligibility requirements are met.

Medical Assistance Payments: They are provided for non-ADC-FC eligible Michigan wards placed with foster parents or relatives (excluding natural parents) in other states. Also, children placed into Michigan in a non-residential setting on a permanent basis may become eligible for Michigan Medicaid. Permanent placement is a foster family setting until the age of majority or expiration of wardship. ADC-FC eligible youths from other states placed in family foster care or residential care in Michigan are eligible for Michigan Medicaid.

Special Education Payments: Not provided for non-resident youth placed in Michigan.

Adoption Subsidy: May be made for monthly maintenance and/or special services and may be paid to adoptive parents of Michigan children living out-of-state, provided the adoption has occurred under Michigan law.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Adoption Central Registry: (517) 373-3513. Inquiries will be handled regarding release of information from adoption records and the parents' consent/denial registry.

Bureau of Regulatory Services, Child Welfare Licensing Division: (517) 373-8383. Questions regarding the licensure of agencies, residential facilities and family foster homes can be made to this number.

MICHIGAN STATE PAGE

Child Abuse (Registry): (517) 373-3572. Inquiries will be handled at this number when caller requests information requiring registry check. This number is not toll free.

Child Abuse Hotline: There is not a centralized statewide hotline for child abuse. Emergency calls are handled at the local level in the county Family Independence Agency offices.

Juvenile Compact Office: Dale L. Murray (517) 373-6918.

Mental Health Compact Office: Margery Briggs (517) 335-0264.