

GEORGIA STATE PAGE

COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR

Mary Dean Harvey, Division Director
Department of Human Resources
Division of Family and Children Services
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3180
Telephone: (404) 651-8409

DEPUTY COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR

Address Correspondence and Telephone Calls Related To Public Agency Adoptions:

Adoptions Unit
2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 8th Floor, Room 473
Atlanta, GA 30303

Public Agency Adoptive Placements
Adoption Assistance

L. Jane Durham (404) 657-3564
Adrian Owens (404) 657-3558

INDEPENDENT AND PRIVATE AGENCY ADOPTIONS ARE PROCESSED BY
ADOPTION PLANNING INC., 2849 PACES FERRY ROAD, SUITE 215, ATLANTA, GA
30339. CONTACT PERSON: RHONDA FISHBEIN AT (770) 434-7822. FAX: (770) 437-1197.
OFFICE HOURS ARE 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

Foster Care Unit

Gloria Patterson (A-G)

Telephone: (404) 657-3457

All Other Interstate Matters

James Graves (H-P)
Social Services Section
Division of Family and Children Services
Foster Care ICPC Unit
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 18th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303-3180
Telephone: (404) 657-3567

Patricia Nealy – Children Last Names (Q-Z)
Social Services Section
Division of Family and Children Services
Foster Care Unit
2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 18th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
Telephone: (404) 463-2216

ICPC Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time Zone.

FAX: Public Agency Adoption (404) 657-9498

FAX: All Other (404) 657-3415

GENERAL INFORMATION

ICPC Code Citation. O.C.G.A. 39-4-1 through 39-4-10.

Statutory Penalties Under Article IV. A person or an association in violation of adoption provisions provided in Code Section 19-8 shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than ten years, or both, in the discretion of the Court.

Age of Majority. 18 years. O.C.G.A. 39-1-1. Under Juvenile Court Code Act-under 17 years for the unruly child. O.C.G.A. 15-11-2.

Court Jurisdiction: Juvenile Court: unruly, delinquent, deprived (which includes abandoned, neglected and dependent children) and termination of parental rights. O.C.G.A. 15-11-5.

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Superior Court. Domestic relations, O.C.G.A. 19-1-1; 19-9-3; adoption. O.C.G.A. 19-8-2. Juvenile Court and Superior Court have concurrent jurisdiction over juveniles who are alleged to have committed capital crimes and in a custody controversy except where Superior Court has exclusive jurisdiction O.C.G.A. 15-11-5.

SPECIAL INFORMATION

Custody Investigations, Divorce Cases and Those Unrelated to the ICPC. Send requests for investigations in divorce matters between parents to county Departments of Family and Children Services, with a copy to ICPC Office. If divorce matter involves possible placement with a third party, send request to ICPC Office of forwarding. Send requests for home evaluations involving disputes which are not divorce matters to ICPC Office, even if sending agency does not consider it an ICPC matter. Include court order; fees are not charged.

REQUIREMENTS

Reports. Quarterly unless otherwise requested.

Licensing Requirements. Childcare institutions, child placing agencies, maternity homes, family foster homes must be licensed or approved annually by the Department of Human Resources. O.C.G.A. 45-5-8. A license to a child welfare agency is deemed to be approval of all foster family homes and foster homes which are approved, supervised and used by the agency O.C.G.A. 49-5-8.

PLACEMENTS

Adoption. Georgia recognizes both voluntary relinquishments and court ordered termination of parental rights. The rights of the biological father who is not also the legal father must be addressed if the adoption is to be finalized in Georgia. Under Georgia law the biological father whether known or unknown has the right to notice concerning the placement of his child (O.C.G.A. 19-8-12). A form 413, background information and the approved 100-A must be attached to the adoption petition when filed.

Agency Adoptive Placements. (O.C.G.A. 19-8-4). An agency must be licensed for adoptive placements by the Department of Human Resources in order to operate within the State. An agency licensed in another state must work with an agency licensed in Georgia in order to place a child with a Georgia family. Home studies and placement supervision must be done by the agency licensed in Georgia. An interstate package on a child to be placed in Georgia must include a complete social and medical history on the child and birth family, certified copies of release or court order, and birth certificate. If the family home study was not completed by the Georgia state agency (County Department of Family and Child Services) a copy of the home study must be included in the package.

Independent Adoptive Placements. (O.C.G.A. 19-8-5). A parent may arrange an adoption providing an agent is named. Notice of revocation to the agent must be given within 10 days of the parent's release of the child. Payment of medical and legal expenses on behalf of the mother and child is permitted but any other financial assistance, paid directly or indirectly, is considered an inducement. Advertisements are prohibited and this includes any private means such as oral statements that a person, or an association of any kind, will arrange for or cause children to be adopted. Violation of the provisions is a felony. (O.C.G.A. 19-8-24).

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Adoption Petitions. Petitioner must be a resident of the state for six months immediately preceding the filing of the petition. (O.C.G.A. 19-8-2). All petitions are filed with the Superior Court in the county of the petitioner's residence or at the court's discretion in the county of the child's domicile or in a county where a licensed child-placing agency having custody of the child is located. (O.C.G.A. 19-8-1). Minimum time between the filing of petition and adjudication is sixty days. (O.C.G.A. 19-8-14).

Residential Placements.

-Placement Requiring Interstate Approval: ICPC approval required after acceptance by the placement facility.

-Requirements for Placements: Form. ICPC-100A. Court document, child summary, and any other pertinent information for approval and supervision.

-Approval of Facilities: Childcare institutions, group homes and residential treatment facilities are licensed by the Department of Human Resources

-Rate Setting: Placement facilities set their own rates.

-Monitoring of the Child: Responsibility rests with sending agency and the placement facility.

-Philosophy for the Placement of Non-Resident Youth: Placement must comply with ICPC requirements and be in the best interest of the child.

Requirements for Foster Care Placement. Foster homes must be approved in accordance with Georgia foster home standards. Placements must comply with ICPC requirements.

PAYMENTS

TANF Payments. Payments are provided for children placed from other states if TANF eligibility requirements are met.

Medicaid Payments. Medicaid payments on behalf of children placed from other states will be made if the children are eligible for AFDC. The sending agency is responsible for medical expenses not covered by Medicaid.

Foster Care Payment. Georgia rates are paid unless an exception is approved by the Division of Family and Children Services.

Special Education Payments. Children placed from other states may attend public school special education programs.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Juvenile Compact Office. Telephone: (404) 508-6556.

Mental Health Compact Office. Telephone: (404) 657-5737.