

The History of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles

In 1954, the plight of the runaway was given nationwide publicity by a series of *Parade Magazine* articles entitled "Nobody's Children". As a result of this series and their own recognition that action was required, various organizations sought to develop remedial legislation. Efforts were directed toward formulating an interstate agreement to cover multi-state problems involving juveniles. Identified needs included procedures to permit the return of runaways, absconders and escapees who were found in other states, and also for a system under which juvenile offenders could be supervised in other states.

The Council of State Governments, with the assistance of many other groups, undertook the task of drafting a Compact to meet these needs. Among the organizations which worked with the Council on this task were the National Probation and Parole Association, the United States Children's Bureau, the Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency, the National Association of Attorneys General, and the Parole and Probation Compact Administrators Association.

The successful operation of the Interstate Compact for the Supervision of Parolees and Probationers (Adult Compact) served to encourage the compact approach for interstate action on juvenile problems. The Adult Compact came about after the U.S. Congress authorized the Crime Control Consent Act in 1934. Subsequently, the final draft of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles (ICJ) was approved in 1955, and the first organizational meeting of the Compact Administrators was held in 1956. By 1986, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Virgin Islands and Guam had ratified the Interstate Compact on Juveniles. Today the ICJ continues to provide for the welfare and protection of juveniles and the public.

Role and Function of the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators (AJCA)

The Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators (AJCA) is dedicated to the cooperation amongst states and jurisdictions which are party to the Interstate Compact on Juveniles. The AJCA provides for the welfare and protection of juveniles and of the public, promulgates rules and regulations, and ensures that the provisions of the Compact are uniformly administered in all states and jurisdictions which have adopted the Compact.

The roles of the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators are:

- To provide for the uniform cooperative interstate supervision of juveniles on probation or parole.
- To provide for the prompt return, from one state to another, of juveniles who have run away, escaped, absconded or fled to avoid prosecution.
- To promulgate rules and regulations as empowered by the governing statute, to effectively carry out the terms and provisions of the ICJ.
- To cooperate with the sending states' terms of supervision while maintaining the quality supervision that the receiving state would provide to its own juveniles.
- To promote education and provide training to its members and other juvenile justice professionals.

Role/ Function of the Compact Administrator and Deputy Compact Administrator

The state Juvenile Compact Administrator is responsible for ensuring implementation of statutory mandates for the Interstate Compact on Juveniles (ICJ) in his or her home state. Additionally, this individual, or designee, represents the state in the national Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators (AJCA). While organizational structure varies and day-to-day delegation may occur, duties which must be completed include:

- Ensuring all runaways, absconders, escapees, or fugitives are returned in accordance with the ICJ statutory provisions, AJCA Rules and Regulations and local juvenile/adult procedures.
- Analysis of incoming and outgoing youth case material to ensure completion and compliance with ICJ. Processing of completed referrals to receiving states or local supervising authorities.
- Authorization or rejection of cooperative supervision for parole or probation supervision based on local recommendation and ICJ statute.
- Ensure completion of travel permits authorizing temporary youth movement between states.
- Tracking and reviewing of progress reports and case closures to ensure youth are supervised in compliance with the ICJ.
- Establishment of a liaison to other ICJ offices and all local supervising jurisdictions.
- Development of policies and procedures in compliance with statute.
- Compilation of required reports and statistics on youth served through the ICJ.

Other duties, although not statutorily mandated, constitute best practice and are mandated in the AJCA Rules and Regulations:

- Assist local juvenile probation and parole, court, law enforcement departments or other agency staff, by providing information regarding ICJ.
- Attend required meetings provided by national AJCA.
- Provide training to juvenile justice professionals in ICJ law, AJCA and state rules and regulations.

Role/Function of the Compact Administrator and Deputy Compact Administrator Under the New Compact

With the ratification of the new Compact, our role and function as Compact Administrators and Deputy Compact Administrators will change to support the implementation of the new ICJ law in each of our states. We will also assist both non-compacting and new compacting states to work closely together to serve youth and families under the ICJ.

We see our role under the new Compact in the following manner:

- Serve as the respective states national commissioner or designee.
- Provide consultation or serve as an advisor to individual state commissioners.
- Serve as the administrator for daily operations of the state ICJ office.

- Serve as the liaison to our individual State Council and provide education, training and consultation to council members on the old and new compact.
- Develop internal policies and administrative rules for ICJ operations within states.
- Possess a strong working knowledge of the new compact rules and regulations and possess an understanding of each states individual statutory requirement.
- Work with state and national commissioners to develop “Best Practice” models for effective case transfers, case management, and treatment intervention services.
- Promulgate rules while acknowledging potentially conflicting individual state and federal laws.

AJCA Role with the National Commission

The AJCA sees its role as working closely with the National Commission to support a smooth, seamless transition for successful implementation of the new compact. It is the AJCA's goal to assist non-compacting states and the National Commission to provide uninterrupted services to youth and families during this critical transition period.

We see the AJCA's role with the National Commission in the following manner:

- Provide specialized and specific training on compact issues.
- Provide education and consultation on day- to -day compact operations.
- Support compacting and non-compacting states to continue to operate in a cooperative manner to safely transfer and return juvenile offenders under cooperative supervision agreements.
- Continue to provide support to the non-compacting states to effectively communicate issues to the National Commission.