

**ASSOCIATION OF ADMINISTRATORS OF THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN**

COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS – STRATEGIC PARTNERING FOR ICPC REFORM

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Co-chair National Judicial Opioid Task Force  
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**BACKGROUND NJOTF AND RJOI**

National Judicial Opioid Task Force      Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative

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**NJOTF**

The Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) created the National Judicial Opioid Task Force in August 2018 to address the issues the courts are facing as a result of the opioid epidemic.

The NJOTF was charged with developing tools and policy recommendations and promoting solutions.

The NJOTF has three working groups: (1) Children and Families; (2) Civil and Criminal; and (3) Education and Collaboration. Each working group is co-chaired by a Chief Justice and State Court Administrator.

The Task Force is scheduled to complete its work by October 2019.

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**NJOTF/RJOI**



- The NJOTF and RJOI has been working to call the attention of the state judicial leaders to the challenges of the current process for interstate placement of foster children.
- NJOTF and RJOI urge reform to the interstate placement process.

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- Amid the national opioid crisis, the impact of the crisis on the foster care system has been devastating in many states and local communities.
- Most significantly, the opioid crisis has greatly increased the number children entering the foster care system due to parental opioid abuse.
- In some states, the foster care population has increased by as much as 80 percent since 2010.
- Further exacerbating the crisis, in many states there is a severe shortage of approved foster families to care for the new influx of children impacted by the opioid crisis.

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- The recent work of the NJOTF and RJOI has highlighted the flaws with the current process of interstate placement for children in foster care.
- In many cases, the best foster or pre-adoptive placement resides across state lines where kinship care may be readily available.
- However, the current process for approving, making, and supporting these placements is fraught with delay and burdensome processes, and approximately 40 percent of requests are ultimately denied by the receiving state without a mechanism that would allow for judicial or administrative review of that decision.

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**CURRENT ICPC PROCESS CHALLENGES INCLUDE**

- Inadequate due process protections
- Home study delays
- Subjective decision making
- Failure to protect the best interests of children subject to the compact

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**WHAT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO DATE**

**NJOTF issued a policy paper to CCJ/COSCA in 2018 to:**

- 1) inform state court leaders of the background in this area
- 2) highlight the issues with the current interstate compact that applies in these circumstances
- 3) summarize the proposed revisions to the compact, including the strengths and weaknesses
- 4) review other areas for reform (e.g., NEICE) in the area of cross-border placement
- 5) review prior work of the Conferences on this issue

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**WHAT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO DATE**

- CCJ issued **Resolution 2: In Support of the Revised Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children** in August 2018.
- <https://ccj.ncsc.org/~media/Microsites/Files/CCJ/Resolutions/08222018-Revised-Interstate-Compact-Placement-Children.ashx>

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**WHAT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO DATE**

- The CCJ President issued a personal letter (in 2018 and then again in 2019) to all Governors and legislative leaders in states that have not ratified the New ICPC, urging those states to do so.



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**THANK YOU**

National Judicial Opioid Task Force [www.ncsc.org/opioidsandcourts](http://www.ncsc.org/opioidsandcourts)

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