



## **ICAMA: The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance**

The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA) was developed in response to a mandate in the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-272). This mandate requires that states take measures to protect the interests of children with special needs receiving adoption assistance when they are placed with adoptive families in another state or subsequently move with their adoptive families to another state. ICAMA has been adopted by 49 states and the District of Columbia.

### **P.L. 26-272**

P.L. 96-272 established a federally aided adoption assistance program under title IV-E of the Social Security Act. Through this program, the federal government contributes to the states' cost of providing adoption subsidies and Medicaid for children who meet the program's eligibility criteria. The law also encouraged the adoption of children with special needs by mandating protections for children who are placed beyond the borders of a specific state.

### **HOW THE COMPACT WORKS**

The ICAMA, which has the force of law within and among the party states, provides for uniformity and consistency of policy and procedures when a family from one state adopts a child with special needs from another, or the adoptive family moves to another state. The children covered by ICAMA are those adopted pursuant to adoption assistance agreements between states and prospective adoptive parents under the terms of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. Through the Compact, states may also extend these protections to children adopted through state-funded adoption assistance programs.

Operation of the Compact is the responsibility of the designated Compact and Deputy administrator (or their designees) in each state. The administrator coordinates with in-state and out-of-state officials to facilitate the provision of benefits and services for adopted children with special needs, processes ICAMA forms, serves as an information resource and assists adoptive families in identifying and accessing needed programs and services for their children.

Every state's Medicaid program is unique. Without the Compact, systemic differences could provide barriers to children receiving medical benefits in interstate situations. Standard forms, institutionalized procedures and regular and reliable channels for information exchange make the process simple and efficient.

### **COMPACT PROCEDURES**

If an adoptive family that has a child with an adoption assistance agreement in effect decides to relocate to a new state, the state responsible for financing the adoption assistance agreement completes and signs Form 6.01, Notice of Eligibility for Medicaid/Case Activation, and attaches to it a copy of the adoption assistance agreement. These documents are sent to the adoptive parents'



new residence state and take the place of an application for Medicaid. A copy of the Form 6.01 is also sent to the adoptive parents. Form 6.02 notifies the parents that the adoption assistance state has taken the necessary actions to initiate Medicaid benefits in the new residence state. These documents identify the person in the new residence state who will serve as the point of contact for the family.