

# AAICAMA CONFERENCE

2022



# The Interstate Compact on **Adoption** and Medical Assistance *Building Bridges Across State Lines*



**Presenters: Adrian Owens (GA) and LaTasha Henry (TX)**  
**2022 Conference Washington, DC**



# WELCOME!

AAICAMA is partner with the Child Welfare League of America, helping to meet their goal- together, making children and families a national priority. 2019/2020→2022!

A special welcome to CWLA Members in this, AAICAMA's first, joint conference.

Please - ask questions, request resources, and follow up with AAICAMA Staff and its State Administrators as we partner in permanency.



# The Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

**AAICAMA**

## The ICAMA and the AAICAMA: Working together.

**AAICAMA's Mission:** All children and youth served by the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance will receive the support services needed to strengthen families and promote permanency.

**AAICAMA'S Mission-Makers:** That's you.



# The Association

## Services

Partner to the Compact, comprised of Administrators and staff of the AAICAMA National Office. The Association guides, educates, and assists.

### Interstate Services

- Medicaid case transfers
- Mediation/Facilitation

### Technical Assistance

- Legal guidance
- Policy clarification
- Compliance/practices

### Research

- Federal law and regulations/implications

### Education and Training

- Compact Administrator
- Adoption Assistance
- Medicaid
- AAICAMA resources
- National Conferences
- Webinars/Forums
- All-State Memos
- Website



# The Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

ICAMA Professionals

**Our goal:** Securing and ensuring permanency.





# The Interstate

## Federal Law

- ✎ The *Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980* (P.L. 96-272)
- ✎ Created Title IV-E Adoption Assistance (federal program)
- ✎ Provided federal funding for program cost(s)
- ✎ Provided Medicaid to children and youth eligible for Title IV-E
- ✎ Defined “Adoption Assistance Agreement” to include mandate that states safeguard the interests of children in interstate adoption:

“[S]tipulates that the agreement shall remain in effect regardless of the State of which the adoptive parents are residents at any given time. The agreement shall contain provisions for the protection (under an interstate compact approved by the Secretary or otherwise) of the interests of the child in cases where the adoptive parents and child move to another State while the agreement is effective.” 42 U.S.C. § 675 (3)(B)

# The Interstate

## Federal Law

The *Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985*.  
Clarified Medicaid provision: In and across all states.

1. Title IV-E: Mandatory in Resident State
2. Non-Title IV-E: Optional in Resident State

Note: The Agreement State remains responsible for ensuring the receipt of the provisions in the Adoption Assistance Agreement, regardless of the state in which the child/family lives.





# The Interstate

## Federal Law

- 🏠 Residency and “lives.” Title IV-E and Non-Title IV-E.
- 🏠 Title IV-E Medicaid. Mandatory, continuous eligibility.
- 🏠 The law had no interstate delivery mechanism.
- 🏠 Adoption Assistance Agreements: Contracts.
- 🏠 Impact on families. *Keeping the promise.*



# The Interstate 28

## The Compact



- 🏠 Enter the ICAMA!
- 🏠 The Compact provided the legal and administrative framework to deliver on the promises of P.L. 96-272 and the COBRA of 1985.



# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## The Compact

The **Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance** was created.

In 1986:

- ✎ 13 states enabled the ICAMA (*Made the Compact state law.*)
- ✎ Formed the AAICAMA (*Created to support the Compact.*)
- ✎ Received a grant from the Children's Bureau to work with the remaining 38 states to enable the Compact (*Ongoing, financial support to effectuate the law to protect children's interests, interstate.*)



# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## Details

Compact: Drafted in January 1986. Association: Incorporated in the District of Columbia. Members: All states and the District of Columbia are Members of the Compact or participate in its operation.

- ❏ Interstate Compact: An agreement between two or more states that bind them to the provisions of the compact. It is a contract.
- ❏ Joinder: Enabling legislation. ICAMA is state law\* and has the force of law among Members.
- ❏ *Conflict of Laws: Compact supersedes conflicting state laws.*

# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## Purpose

### ICAMA – Article II

- a) Strengthen protections for the interests of children with special needs on behalf of whom adoption assistance is committed to be paid, when such children are in or move to states other than the one committed to provide adoption assistance.
- b) Provide substantive assurances and operating procedures which will promote the delivery of medical and other services to children on an interstate basis thru adoption assistance programs established by the laws the states which are parties to this Compact.\*

*\*ICAMA System, ICAMA Forms, and ICAMA processes*

# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## Details

1. Provides administrative structure to transfer benefits and protect the interstate interests of youth adopted with special needs i.e., eligible for Adoption Assistance.
2. Provides uniformity and consistency. ICAMA System, ICAMA Forms, ICAMA law and practice.
3. Provides a single point of contact re: ICAMA State Contact.

Note: Importance of the Designation of Compact Official Form (DCO.)



# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## Details

- ✎ Forty-nine states and the District of Columbia
- ✎ Wyoming is the only state, Non-Member
- ✎ Associate Membership: New York
- ✎ Territories: Puerto Rico! In process of becoming an Associate Member.

Note: Joinder efforts re: U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam

# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## Jurisdiction

The ICAMA applies when an Adoption Assistance Agreement is in effect and:

- Child is placed interstate for adoption or
- Child and family move interstate after finalization or
- Child is placed interstate in a residential school or treatment facility.



# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## Data

An AAICAMA Interstate Movement Study (2007) found that:

- ☑ Ten percent (10%) of youth receiving Adoption Assistance live outside the Agreement State.
- ☑ Numbers increasing: From 1998-2005, the number of youth receiving Adoption Assistance living outside Agreement State **increased by 70%**.

Note: Adoption Exchanges have reported that prospective, adoptive families who respond to child-specific adoption recruitment *do not reside in the same state as the child*.



# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## ICAMA Professionals

- 🏠 The ICAMA professional is often and adoptive families only, known point of contact with the state agency.
- 🏠 Informed, committed, proactive- you make the interstate transfer of Medicaid and support services happen interstate.
- 🏠 You are the engine of the ICAMA.

# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## ICAMA Professionals

- ✎ The staff: Compact and Deputy Compact Administrators and ICAMA staff ARE the ICAMA.
- ✎ The work: Collaboration, coordination, and communication with in and out-of-state colleagues to secure and ensure Medicaid to eligible children and youth who are placed or move interstate.
- ✎ The process: ICAMA System, ICAMA Forms, emails and phone calls. Making Medicaid Happen.
- ✎ The advocacy: You serve as advocate for children and resource library for parents to create and sustain permanency.



# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## ICAMA Professionals

The ICAMA System and Compact and Forms are the tools used to ensure that youth living outside the Agreement State receive uninterrupted support services. ICAMA staff:

- ✉ Inform and exchange: Information via the ICAMA System of ICAMA Forms.
- ✉ Confirm and facilitate: Eligibility and transfer notification interstate to open/close Medicaid cases using your state's internal process. ICAMA referrals trigger the Residence State to provide Medicaid.



# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## ICAMA Process

AAICAMA uses the ICAMA System and ICAMA's Forms for case management and case transfers.

- ICAMA System ("ICAMA Form 7.0") and its history.
- The Forms: 7.01, 7.5, and the Add/Disable User Form.
- Use of the ICAMA System and the ICAMA Forms are an obligation under the Compact for all ICAMA Members.

Under the Compact, all Member States agree to use uniform ICAMA processes and procedures – to include ICAMA Forms and their evolution.

# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## ICAMA Process

### **7.01 ICAMA Form: California and New York: Request for Medicaid Case Activation**

(Document title: 7.01 ICAMA Form California and New York ver. 2022) This form is the ICAMA System referral/request used to open Medicaid for the states of California and New York. *Note: This form is fillable.*

### **7.5 ICAMA Form Case Updates: Only for Cases Opened Using ICAMA Form 6.01 or 7.01**

(Document title: 7.5 ICAMA Form Case Updates ver. 2022) This form is used to make changes to all cases with California and New York or any case opened before 2015 (via the ICAMA Form 6.01 that was in use prior to the ICAMA System of electronic transfer of ICAMA cases.) This Form includes the content previously found in the *7.5 ICAMA Form Additional Children*. *Note: This form is fillable.*

**ICAMA Form: The ICAMA System: Add Disable Users** (Document title: Add Disable User ver. 2022) This form is used to request that an ICAMA System User be added or removed (disabled) from the ICAMA System of electronic transfer of ICAMA cases. *Note: This form is fillable.*

# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## ICAMA Process

Complete the Forms in full to ensure proper case management and the receipt of Medicaid.

- ☑ Name, DOB, gender, ethnicity, and Social Security Number (SSN)  
*(Note: SSN assigned at birth or new SSN obtained after finalization.)*
- ☑ Names, addresses
- ☑ Basis for Medicaid eligibility (Title IV-E Adoption Assistance or Guardianship or Non-Title IV-E Adoption Assistance)
- ☑ ICAMA Administrator information.



# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## ICAMA Process

- ✔ The ICAMA System/Forms: Confirm Medicaid eligibility.
- ✔ No, other documentation or substantiation is required of ICAMA Members.
- ✔ Benefits: Reduces state administration and frees families from navigating agency systems.

*Note: Families do not- ever- have to apply for Medicaid for youth eligible for Title IV-E or in interstate cases.*

# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## Federal Law

- ❏ A note on Social Security Numbers: SSN is a legal term.
- ❏ An SSN can only be enumerated by the Social Security Administration, a federal agency with regional offices throughout the United States.
- ❏ Not required to open a Medicaid case, but must be provided upon confirmation or receipt. *Cite: 42 C.F.R. 435.910*
- ❏ States are not permitted to use “dummy” SSNs or generate state-specific numbers to use in the ICAMA System/on ICAMA Forms.
- ❏ Issue: Lack of an SSN/need for the placeholder in the ICAMA System.  
Re: Question with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## Federal Law

A child has only one valid SSN at a time. States must use either:

- ✎ The SSN issued by the Social Security Administration a birth
- or
- ✎ The new SSN issued by the Social Security Administration after finalization.

*Note: The SSN issued at birth must continue to be used during the waiting period for a new SSN.*





# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## ICAMA Practice

- ☑ ICAMA practice: Contact the ICAMA Administrator or ICAMA staff member to request the child's SSN.
- or
- ☑ Follow-up: If ICAMA staff do not have a child's SSN, contact the adoptive parent(s) to request the child's SSN.

# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## ICAMA Training

- ✉ ICAMA System: Training available to any ICAMA Administrator or ICAMA team member.
- ✉ Contact AAICAMA's IT Program Manager, Scott Boyle:  
[Sboyle@aaicama.org](mailto:Sboyle@aaicama.org)

# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## Children and Youth

The heart of the IC♥MA process is a child of youth with special needs.

# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## Children and Youth

- ❏ Children adopted from state care often have multiple health issues. Reliable, consistent receipt of medical assistance is vital to their health and wellbeing.
- ❏ Children eligible for Adoption Assistance have, by definition, special needs. Their health needs cannot wait.
- ❏ ICAMA: Building bridges across state lines. The Compact is the bridge between states to transfer Medicaid and the support services necessary secure the health of children and youth eligible for Assistance.



# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## Children and Youth

- ✎ Families depend on the ICAMA and the professionals that are the ICAMA to obtain critically needed medical assistance for their children.
- ✎ Together, ICAMA Professionals work to ensure placement and secure the on-going strength and stability of permanency for every child and youth under the Compact.

No, other organization or agency does this. Only ICAMA.

**ICAMA: Tiny and mighty.**



# The Interstate

## Medicaid and Title IV-E Assistance

- 🏠 Title IV-E: The Adoption Assistance program does NOT require annual redeterminations of a child's eligibility.
- 🏠 Redeterminations are precluded under federal law.
- 🏠 Once an Adoption Assistance Agreement is signed and in effect, it can be terminated **ONLY** under three circumstances.

*Cite: 42 U.S.C. § 673(a)(4)*





# The Interstate

## Medicaid and Title IV-E Assistance

- ✎ Age: Youth reaches the age at which the Agreement State extends Assistance re: 18 or 21 years of age. Note: The Agreement State determines whether a youth has a disability which warrants the continuation of assistance.
- ✎ Legal Responsibility: Agreement State determines that the parent is no longer legally responsible for the youth.
- ✎ Parental Support: Agreement State determines the youth no longer receives any support from the parents. Note: The word “any” is interpreted broadly, and decisions favor continued assistance.



# The Interstate

## Medicaid and Title IV-E Assistance

ICAMA Practice: If an adoptive parent does not reply to a state request for information, no adverse action can be taken. Once Title IV-E Adoption Assistance eligibility is determined, assistance continues until either:

- ❑ One of the three (3) statutory conditions for termination are met
- ❑ The adoptive parent agree (“concur”\*) to a change
- ❑ Notification of changes: Parental responsibility
- ❑ Suspensions\*

Note: Reductions in a Title IV-E AA payments are not permitted without the concurrence of the adoptive parents. \*Suspensions are possible under federal law, but difficult to secure.

*Cite: 42 U.S.C. §673(a)(3) and (4) (A) and (B); 45 C.F.R. 205.10. See also the ACF Children’s Bureau Child Welfare Policy Manual at 8.2D TITLE IV-E, Adoption Assistance Program, Payments.*

# The Interstate

## Medicaid and Non-Title IV-E Assistance

- ✎ Working with families: Advance information and notification are vital.
- ✎ If a youth receives Non-Title IV-E Adoption Assistance, educate them on the differences in Medicaid receipt interstate re: Non-reciprocity states re: HI, IL, NV, and NM.
- ✎ The Agreement State remains responsible for the provisions in the Adoption Assistance Agreement.



# The Interstate

## Practice Tips

Impress on parents the importance of and need for the following:

- ✉ Assistance type: Title IV-E versus Non-Title IV-E and its implications
- ✉ Contact information: Agreement State and Resident State
- ✉ Moves: Notifying the Agreement State of impending move or school/facility placement
- ✉ Prescriptions: Refilling prescriptions prior to moves to prevent lapse in medication
- ✉ Medicaid Services: State Medicaid Plan offerings differ and how to meet the medical needs of their child re: EPSDT

# The Interstate

## Practice Tips

- ❏ **Cards:** Unnecessary to receive Medicaid services. Medicaid numbers can be generated and used to receive Medicaid services before a Medicaid care is issued/received.
- ❏ **Cards:** One card/one state at a time is valid. Synchronize between states to open and close Medicaid through the ICAMA System/ICAMA Forms.
- ❏ **Services:** Vary by state. Services available in a new state of residence may be different than those received in a prior state of residence. Re: Medicaid State Plans.
- ❏ **Availability:** Children and youth determined eligible for Assistance remain Medicaid eligible interstate- there is no lapse, no 45-day timeline.
- ❏ **Availability:** Emergency Medicaid/medical emergencies re: 24/7.



# The Interstate

## Practice Tips

- 🏠 Adoptive parents will often not inform the Resident State or Agreement State of an impending (or completed) move.
- 🏠 Direct Deposit of Adoption Assistance checks can cause issues with addresses.
- 🏠 States have different organizational systems to operate child welfare, Medicaid, and/or ICAMA re: State and County-administered states and California.



# The Interstate

## Practice Tips

- 🏠 Be proactive: Anticipate needs, ask questions, and seek solutions.
- 🏠 The ICAMA was created to ensure the receipt of services- get to “yes.”
- 🏠 Partner: With your State Medicaid Department.
- 🏠 Communicate: With your Child Welfare Department.
- 🏠 Build: Relationships with your ICAMA colleagues.





# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## ICAMA Professionals

**Reach out.** Pick up the phone! Don't hesitate to clarify information or to follow-up on a case. A personal phone call goes a long way to achieving success across states.

**The three C's of AAICAMA:** Communication, collaboration, and coordination.



# The Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance

## ICAMA Professionals

- Know: Your state's post-adoption services.
- Reach out: To parents of adoptive children coming into your state!
- Use resources: AAICAMA website and National Office.

Website: [www.aaicama.org](http://www.aaicama.org)

AAICAMA and CWLA National Office  
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Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202) 913-3226



# AAICAMA Contact Information

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- Scott Boyle, AAICAMA IT Program Manager
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  - (801) 636-4882



# AAICAMA's Executive Board

## Leadership

Adrian Owens (GA) – President (Officer)  
LaTasha Henry (TX) – Vice President (Officer)  
Jennifer Kobel (OH) – Treasurer (Officer)

Mike Casey (DE) – Member at Large  
Vicki Davis (TN) – Member at Large  
Carissa Decker (ID) – Member at Large  
Kim Gunnell (WA) – Member at Large  
Monica Sekscinski (MO) – Member at Large  
Jeannie Weasel Tail (MT) - Member at Large

# Enjoy the Conference!

## Hopes for Conf22

- 📧 Speak up and out- let your voice be heard!
- 📧 JUST ASK!
- 📧 Share- your practices, your news! You never know what will aid a colleague.
- 📧 Remember: We are all here to learn from and help one another.
- 📧 Network, network, and network!
- 📧 Have FUN!

