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**Policy**

In all instances in which children who are placed into and out of Connecticut and are subject to the Interstate Compacts provisions, the Department shall:

- cooperate with other states
  - protect the rights of children and youth and Connecticut citizens, and
  - adhere to the requirements of three distinct Interstate Compacts.
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**Three Compacts**

There are three (3) Interstate Compacts:

- Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (17a-175 through 182, Connecticut General Statutes)
- Interstate Compact on Juveniles (46b-151 through 151g, Connecticut General Statutes)
- Interstate Compact on Mental Health (17a-615 through 618, Connecticut General Statutes).

Note: The Department must also adhere to the requirements of 17a-152 of the Connecticut General Statutes pertaining to importation, in all instances when children are placed into Connecticut.

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**Applicability**

The three Compacts are mutually exclusive and are designed to serve specific populations of children who require care and protection in a different state.

Compact requirements apply to all programs administered by this Department, as well as all public and private agencies, courts, juvenile officers, judges, corporations, associations, charitable agencies, administrators, child placement workers, officers, employees, person(s) or subdivision(s) of a member state.

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**Definitions**

An Interstate Compact is uniform legislation which becomes statutory law in each state whose legislature elects to enact it. Compliance is mandatory rather than discretionary. Interstate Compact agreements are legally binding and enforceable contracts between the placing party and the receiving state. Such contracts are protected by the Contracts Clause of the United States Constitution.

Interstate Compacts Office is the centralized Department unit that manages all three Compacts and related interstate matters.

Compact Administrator is the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families as designated by law and appointed by the Governor to carry out the provisions of the three Compacts.

Deputy Compact Administrator is the staff person designated by the Commissioner to manage the Interstate Compacts Office.

Importation Statute, 17a-152, Connecticut General Statutes governs all placements into Connecticut from other states and foreign jurisdictions and establishes procedures to be followed before a child is brought into the state and after, until the child reaches eighteen (18) years of age or is adopted. The Interstate Compacts Office is the clearinghouse for these cases. Non compact parties placing children into Connecticut are subject to all the provisions of this statute.

Cross-reference: For a detailed description of the policy, please refer to Chapter 47, Interstate Compacts.

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