



South Carolina Department of Social Services Work Aid 12.5: Georgia/South Carolina Border Agreement

**ICPC Georgia/South Carolina Border Agreement between:
Georgia Department of Family and Children Services (GA DFCS) – Columbia,
Lincoln and Richmond counties AND South Carolina Department of Social
Services (SC DSS) – Aiken and McCormick counties**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this border state agreement is to improve the ability of the party states to place a child into the other party state under the requirements of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) by reducing the amount of time necessary to effectuate the placement of the child; and by sustaining the placement of a child. For purposes of this agreement, such individuals residing in the Georgia counties of Columbia, Lincoln and Richmond Counties and the South Carolina counties of Aiken and McCormick Counties may be considered for expedited placement under the terms and conditions of this agreement.

I. INITIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICATION

This agreement shall only apply in cases where a child has been removed from the care of his/her parents/legal guardian by the appropriate party state agency under a valid court order placing the child into state custody and appropriate kin or family placement has been identified in the neighboring state.

II. EXPEDITED TEMPORARY PLACEMENTS WITH KIN

A. Definitions:

1. **Kin:** For purposes of this agreement the term "Kin" shall be defined as follows: A family member, relative or a person who has a significant relationship with the child who has been identified by the custodial parents/guardians or child.
2. **Border Agreement Kinship Home Study:** For purposes of this agreement the term "Border Agreement Kinship Home Study" shall be defined as follows: a preliminary investigation by the receiving state agency consisting of a physical "walk through" by the receiving state's caseworker of the prospective kin's home to assess the residence for risks, a search of the receiving state's child protective services data base for prior reports/investigations on the prospective kin, and a local criminal background check, including the sex offender registry, on the prospective kin; and verification of the kin's agreement. The parties agree to use the

Border Agreement Kinship Home Study attached to this agreement.

B. **Expedited Temporary Placements:** A party state may place a child on an expedited temporary basis into the jurisdiction of the other party state, subsequent to removal pursuant to a valid court order, using the following procedure:

1. **Initiation by Sending State Agency:** Upon identification of the kin located in the receiving state, the caseworker in the sending state local agency shall make contact with the kin and assure that they are willing and able to care for the child and will be available for the receiving state staff: to obtain all available identifying information about the kin and shall initiate a request for the receiving state to conduct a Border Agreement Kinship Home Study (BA Kinship Home Study) on the identified Kin who reside in Georgia counties of Columbia, Lincoln, and Richmond and the South Carolina counties of Aiken, and McCormick.
2. **Sending States Responsibilities Upon Request:** The sending local agency shall call the appropriate receiving local agency point of contact as specified in paragraph 3, herein below, to request a Border Agreement Kinship Home Study. At the time of making the request, the sending agency caseworker shall provide his/her business contact information and the business contact information of his or her supervisor or on call supervisor to the receiving local agency so that direct contact with the caseworker may be made.
3. **Respective Points of Contact:** The points of contact for the respective states and counties are as follows:
 - (a) **GA DFCS: During regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.- Monday through Friday)** Columbia County, GA 706-541-1640, Lincoln County, GA 706-359-3135, Richmond County, GA 706-721-3381, **non-business hours/at all other times**, Columbia County, GA 706-541-2800, Lincoln County, GA 706-359-4118, Richmond County, GA 706-855-2411. The Georgia telephone numbers provided for non-business hours are the telephone numbers of local law enforcement agencies in Columbia, Lincoln and Richmond Counties, Georgia. Georgia DFCS anticipates that law enforcement officials will contact the appropriate county department as quickly as possible. However, if the South Carolina case manager has not received a call in response to the request for a Border Agreement Kinship Safety Study within 1 hour after contacting Georgia law enforcement, at the numbers provided during non-business hours, then South Carolina will call the emergency numbers provided by the Directors of the Columbia, Lincoln and Richmond Counties Departments of Family and Children Services, as follows: Columbia County, GA 706-831-2049, Lincoln County, GA 706-401-3111 or Supervisor Jeanie Collins 706-4012464, Richmond County, GA 706-214-1141.
 - (b) **SC DSS: During regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.- Monday through Friday)** Aiken County, SC 803-642-3601 or 803-649-1111, McCormick County, SC 864-465-2129 or 864-465-2140, **non-business hours/at all other times**, Aiken County, SC 803-642-

6811, McCormick County, SC 864-465-3211. The South Carolina telephone numbers provided for non-business hours are the telephone numbers of local law enforcement agencies in Aiken and McCormick Counties, South Carolina. South Carolina DSS anticipates that law enforcement officials will contact the appropriate county department as quickly as possible. However, if the Georgia case manager has not received a call in response to the request for a Border Agreement Kinship Safety Study within 1 hour after contacting South Carolina law enforcement, at the numbers provided during non-business hours, then Georgia will call the emergency numbers provided by the Directors of the Aiken and McCormick Counties Departments of Social Services, as follows: Aiken County, SC 803-221-2324, McCormick County, SC 803-480-1690 or Supervisor Loretta Settles 803-480-3517.

4. **Response and BA Kinship Home Study Time Requirements:** The receiving local caseworker shall contact the sending agency local caseworker, using the contact information provided on or before the expiration of **one (1) hour** of receiving the BA Kinship Home Study request. The sending local caseworker will fax or electronically scan and send via email to the receiving local caseworker any pertinent documents which may be available and assistive to the BA Kinship Home Study. Unless circumstances specify otherwise, a **verbal report** of the BA Kinship Home Study is expected to be completed **within three (3) hours** of receipt of the request, specifically including whether or not the receiving state agency authorizes or does not authorize the proposed placement.
5. **Written Report of BA Kinship Home Study:** A written report of the BA Kinship Home Study shall be forwarded to the sending local agency within two (2) business days of its completion and shall consist of, at a minimum, the following: a narrative report which: documents information regarding the kin caregiver(s) and their home environment; concludes with a determination regarding the appropriateness of the placement and impact on the safety, well-being of the child; states reasons for temporary authorization or denial which includes any terms or conditions for the decision; includes appropriate authorizing signatures, and attachments of local background checks/verifications, pursuant to local policy. Use of the agreed upon BA Kinship Home Study shall fulfill the requirements of this paragraph.
6. **Policies and Procedures:** The receiving local caseworker will conduct the BA Kinship Home Study of the identified "kin" caregiver(s) and the home environment using the receiving state's applicable policy and procedures for such a placement. Temporary authorization of the BA

Kinship Home Study is the responsibility of the receiving local agency and must meet the receiving state agencies current policies and procedures. The final placement decision will be made by the sending agency.

7. ***Inability to Complete BA Kinship Home Study within three (3) hour time frame:*** If the receiving local caseworker is unable to complete the BA Kinship Home Study within the three (3) hour time period, then the receiving local caseworker shall contact the sending local caseworker and inform him/her of the reason(s) preventing completion. It is the intent of the parties that in no event shall more than three (3) hours from the initial contact elapse before communication is reestablished to provide an update to the sending local caseworker.
8. ***Obligations Upon Temporary Authorization:*** Upon notice of temporary authorization of the BA Kinship Home Study, the sending local case manager shall be responsible for arranging transportation of the child to placement in the authorized home. It is the sending state's responsibility to transport, if all else fails, as the sending agency has custody of the child. The receiving local case manager will provide assistance needed to facilitate the placement. The sending local agency shall also notify the sending agency's ICPC office on or before the expiration of 48 hours from receipt of the authorization by forwarding the ICPC Form 100A, together with any written documentation provided by the receiving local agency.
9. ***Supervision of the Placement:*** The receiving local agency shall be responsible for the supervision of the child in the authorized placement and shall make an initial report to the sending local caseworker on or before the expiration of seven (7) calendar days after placement and then on a monthly basis thereafter, so long as the child remains in the custody of the agency and in the authorized placement.
10. ***Child's Expenses:*** Any basic necessary expenses for the child's support, education, health and maintenance incurred by the child resulting from the child's placement into foster care and temporary placement in the receiving state shall be borne by the sending agency as ordinarily provided by the sending state.
11. ***Disapprovals and Reconsideration:*** The receiving local caseworker shall communicate a decision to deny placement of the BA Kinship Home Study to the sending local caseworker by telephone within thirty (30) minutes of the determination. Should the sending local agency wish to discuss the reason for the denial and any alternative measures that would allow for authorization of the placement, this communication should take place on the supervisory level the next business day. There

will be no further review and the sending local agency shall not make the placement of the child unless authorized in writing by the receiving local agency.

12. *Expiration of Temporary Border Agreement Kinship Home Study*

Authorization: Authorization for the temporary placement of children in the receiving state under this Border Agreement shall be valid for a maximum of seven (7) calendar days as counted from the date and hour of placement into the receiving state. After this time, the placement shall automatically expire, and the sending agency shall make arrangements to have the child returned, unless the sending agency on or before the expiration of the seven-day period, initiates either an Expedited Placement under the terms and conditions of this Border Agreement as specified herein below. If the 7th day falls on a weekend, holiday, or furlough day, the placement shall be continued until the next regularly scheduled business day. Upon the initiation of either of the foregoing, the placement shall be permitted to continue under its original terms. The Ga. local agency shall be required to tell S.C. local agency when furlough days are scheduled.

III. EXPEDITED PLACEMENTS WITH KIN

A. Requirements for Expedited Placement with Kin: In order for the expedited placement of a child to be considered under this agreement, the child must meet the following criteria: (1) the child must be placed in the county in the receiving state served by a local agency which is a party to this agreement under authorization of a temporary authorized placement by the appropriate receiving local agency as set forth herein above, and (2) the request from the sending state agency must be forwarded to the receiving state's ICPC office on or before the expiration of seven calendar days as measured from the date and hour of the child's placement into the receiving state.

B. Contents of Request for Expedited Placement with Kin: The request for expedited placement shall be made electronically, whenever possible, and shall, at a minimum, include the following:

- 1. *Order/or Expedited Placement Decision Pursuant to Border Agreement.*** A signed court order for expedited placement decision pursuant to the border agreement embodying the finding that a proposed expedited placement of a child from one state into the other is necessary. The order shall include the name, address, telephone number, and if available, the Fax number and email of the judge and/or the court.
DSS Form 3049: ICPC Request (100A)
- 2. *DSS Form 30126: ICPC Report on Child's Placement Status (100B)***
- 3. *DSS Form 37546: Medical Financial Revision***

4. DSS Form 37545: Statement of Interest Revision

5. Social History Summary

- C. **Time Requirements:** The sending state compact administrator shall transmit the required information to the receiving state compact administrator within twenty (24) hours of receipt from the sending local agency (with a copy to the receiving local county. The receiving state's ICPC office, within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of the required information, shall forward the request to the applicable receiving local agency for investigation. The receiving state compact administrator shall make his or her final determination pursuant to ICPC Article III (d) as soon as practicable, but not later than thirty (30) days from the date of receipt from the sending agency compact administrator. Whenever possible, all transmittals shall be made by electronic mail delivery.
- D. **Inability to Provide Required Information:** The inability of the sending state agency to provide all of the information required by Paragraph B above to the receiving state's ICPC office shall not cause the validity of the temporary placement to expire, so long as the request is made within the applicable time frame and includes all available information. The remaining information shall be forwarded as quickly as possible. If the receiving state ICPC office is unable to obtain the required information within a reasonable time, the receiving state ICPC office may contact the sending agency court directly using the contact information contained in the order for expedited placement for assistance.
- E. **Disapproval and Reconsideration:** The receiving state compact administrator shall include the name and phone number of an appropriate supervisor when communicating any disapproval, should the sending agency wish to discuss the reason for the denial and any alternative measures that would allow for approval of the placement.

Disruptions: If it is subsequently determined that the placement in the receiving state appears to be contrary to the interest of the child, the sending agency shall arrange to return the child or make an alternative placement as provided in Article V(A) of the ICPC.

IV. TRAINING

- A. **Establishment of Joint Training:** Within thirty days of the date of the execution of this Agreement, GA DFCS and SC DSS shall establish a common and joint training for staff of the counties included in this Agreement. After the initial training, the parties shall agree upon a schedule for further training to accommodate new staff and/or issues which might arise.
- B. **Time Requirement for Staff Training:** All staff shall be trained no later than 90 days after the date of execution of this Agreement.
- C. **Effective Date of Agreement:** GA DFCS and SC DSS shall jointly agree upon a date when voluntary placements under this Agreement shall begin, taking into

consideration the date by which training of staff will be accomplished. The parties agree to conduct a face-to-face review meeting on or before six months after the effective date of the Agreement and then periodically from time to time thereafter, as the parties can agree.

V. TERMINATION:

This Agreement may be terminated by a 60-day notice given in writing by either party to the other. However, any home studies in progress on the date of termination may be completed and any placement procedure pending on such termination date may continue with the same effect as though the termination had not occurred.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Agreement is Effective on the following date: _____, 20 .



Date: 03/10/11

Lillian B. Koller, J.D.
State Director
South Carolina Department of Social Services



Date: 6/21/2011

Clyde L. Reese, 111,
Esq. Commissioner
Georgia Department of Human Resources

Date: 5/4/11

Rachelle Carnesale,
J.D. Director
Georgia Division of Family and Children
Services