



Section C: Program Information

(6) Timely Home Studies Reporting and Data

**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**

Child and Family Services Plan FY 2010 - FY 2014 Timely Home Studies Reporting and Data

Frequency the extended 75-day period was needed for interstate home studies that begun on or before September 30, 2008.

- 123 extensions were requested for on the 735 foster and adoptive home studies that begun on or before September 30, 2009.

Reasons why the extended compliance was needed:

Outlined below are two primary reasons extensions were requested on ICPC home studies:

- Foster and adopt home study extensions were related to the failure by a Federal agency to provide timely fingerprint results. During FY 2007 and FY 2008 Washington state received FBI fingerprint results on average between three (3) to eight (8) weeks. The lack of timely FBI results significantly impacted the ability to complete timely home studies.
- Washington State requires prospective foster parents to meet education and training requirements. Often prospective foster parents are in the process of completing these requirements and need additional time.

The 15 day extension allowed by the Safe and Timely Act of 2006 has not significantly impacted the timely resolution of home studies. In circumstances, when the criminal background results were not received at the 60 day mark the additional fifteen 15 day extension was not an enough time impact our compliance with this requirement. This extension did not impact the timely completion of training and education of foster and adoptive parents.

Extent to which the extended compliance period resulted in the resolution

- Of the 123 requests for the extended compliance period only resulted in nine (9) timely home studies.

Action taken to make meet the 60 day home study requirement

- Additional steps taken by the State of Washington to resolve the need for extended compliance included:
 - The Director of Field Operations issuing a directive to management and field staff detailing the requirements of the Safe and Timely Interstate Act.
 - Twelve (12) staff members were appointed as ICPC leads, two (2) staff members in each of the states six (6) regions ICPC.
 - ICPC regional leads received additional training on the requirements of the Safe and Timely Interstate Act of 2006 and timeframe expectations.
 - Management has expanded ICPC training opportunities for staff. Offices that have not previously had ICPC training have been scheduled for training. Ongoing staff training is needed to emphasize timely home studies and extension requirements.
- Practice changes were made in the state ICPC office and in the field offices to increase the opportunity for completing home studies within the required timeframes. When an ICPC request is received in the state office an electronic assignment process was implemented to reduce the amount of time required for home study request to reach assigned social worker. The State office also now accepts completed home studies by way of email or fax. These changes in practice have eliminated five-seven days of delay in the home study process.

These changes were implemented to allow the social worker to have the maximum amount of time to complete interstate home study.

- Washington's current home study policy allows 120 days for home study completion. The 60 day timeframe is a significant change in timeframes and has presented challenges with the collection of information (e.g., background checks, law enforcement reports, etc.) in this shorter timeframe.
- During FY 2007 and FY 2008 data collection regarding extensions was limited. ICPC staff tracked requests for extensions in an Excel spreadsheet. The collection of data is solely based on staff notifying the Interstate Compact state office of extensions. This has compromised accurate data reporting. The ICPC supervisor is working with staff to have Washington's new electronic child welfare system track and report out on home study timeframes and extensions.

ICPC Referrals Received During Federal Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008

Data from the final CAMIS download of January 28, 2009. Federal Fiscal Year spans October 1st to September 30th.

	Home Study Type	FFY07	FFY08	
Incoming ICPC Requests	Adoptive	113	95	
	Foster	221	306	
	Total	334	401	Grand Total
Incoming ICPC Requests Completed within 60 Days	Adoptive	33	26	
	Foster	59	114	
	Total	92	140	
Incoming ICPC Requests Completed within 75 Days	Adoptive	39	41	
	Foster	80	139	
	Total	119	180	
Incoming ICPC Requests Completed in More Than 75 Days	Adoptive	74	46	
	Foster	140	140	
	Total	214	186	