



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SUZANNE MILES-GUSTAVE, ESQ.
Acting Commissioner

March 13, 2024

RE: NYS OCFS ICPC Approval of Timeframes for Birth Parent Expenses

Dear Colleague,

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is sending this letter to provide an update regarding the attached letter dated January 5, 2024 on the subject of the allowable payments to a birth parent in connection with an adoptive placement under the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC).

OCFS recognizes that the process for evaluating fees requires further clarification. Accordingly, OCFS has retracted the letter and will issue revised guidance. OCFS will also amend its Adoptive Placement Fee Disclosure Form (OCFS-4890) to reflect its revised guidance. In the interim, NYS will accept, for purposes of approval of an adoptive placement into NYS, out-of-state court orders that are issued and entered by a court with competent jurisdiction over the adoption proceeding.

OCFS is strongly committed to policies that encourage both in-state and out-of-state adoption placements. As such, we would like to engage with a representative group of adoption attorneys to better understand the landscape of day-to-day practice and processes. OCFS will be reaching out shortly to invite select parties to engage in this discussion.

Please direct questions to Jim Keeler, ICPC Specialist (James.Keeler2@ocfs.ny.gov) or Sharon Jocelyn, ICPC Deputy Compact Administrator (Sharon.Jocelyn@ocfs.ny.gov).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Pratt", written over a horizontal line.

Gail Geohagen-Pratt, Deputy Commissioner
Child Welfare & Community Services