

MISSISSIPPI STATE PAGE

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ICPC Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Central Time Zone.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ICPC Code Citation. Chapter 428, Mississippi laws of 1976.

Statutory Penalties. Under Article IV. None in Mississippi.

Age of Majority. 21 years. M.C.A. sec 1-3-27 (1972).

Court Jurisdiction. Chancery Court: adoption M.C.A. sec. 93-17-1 (1972), divorce M.C.A. sec. 93-5-7 (1975 Supp.), termination of parental rights M.C.A. sec. 93-15-1 (1980). Youth Court: neglected, battered, or delinquent child M.C.A. 43-21-7 (1979). Family Court: neglected or delinquent M.C.A. 42-23-55 (1972). (Note: The size of the county determines whether a Youth Court or a Family Court will be in existence.)

REQUIREMENTS

Reports. Quarterly, unless requested otherwise.

Licensing Requirements. The Mississippi State Department of Human Services has the statutory authority to license residential child caring facilities and child placing agencies. M.C.A. 43-15-5 (1972).

SPECIAL INFORMATION

Custody Investigation, Divorce Cases and Other Non-Compact Matters. Requests for investigations of any of the above should be sent through the ICPC Office. A copy of the court order must accompany the request. Requests are forwarded to the County DHS Offices for handling. The County DHS office will provide information on payment procedures.

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PLACEMENTS

Independent Adoptive Placements. Independent Adoptions are legal in Mississippi. Homestudy with criminal record clearances and central child abuse registry checks included are to be conducted by licensed certified social workers, licensed child-placing agencies, or Mississippi Department of Human Services staff only. It is unlawful for any child to be placed into Mississippi for purposes of adoption without consent of MDHS ICPC ADOPTION staff. Before giving permission for such placements the following information is necessary, but not limited to: 1) Approved adoption homestudy, less than 1 year old; 2) medical/social/genetic history of child and birth parents; 3) Surrenders of Parental Rights taken no sooner than 72 hours after the birth of the child, if taken in Mississippi; 4) 100A signed by mother, agency representative to whom mother has surrendered child, or intermediary designated as responsible party. **Faxed material must have prior approval.**

Adoption Petition. Petitioner must have resided in the state for ninety (90) days preceding the filing of the petition, unless the petitioner is related to the child within the third degree. M.C.A. sec. 93-17-3 (1972). Minimum time between interlocutory decree and final decree is six months unless the petitioner is a step-parent or related within the third degree. The chancellor may also decide the waiting period is not necessary or can shorten the waiting period by the amount of time the child has resided in the home before the interlocutory decree. M.C.A. sec. 93-17-13 (1972). Parental consent to the adoption cannot be executed until three (3) days after the birth of the child. M.C.A. sec. 93-17-5 (1972).

Residential Placements. Placements should be made according to ICPC procedures.

Foster Care Placements Requirements. Placements must be made in relative or non-relative homes which meet agency licensing standards.

PAYMENTS

TANF Payments. Mississippi does not make TANF Foster Care Payments out of state and makes TANF payments to grantee relatives only when the TANF family is out of the state for a temporary time, normally for not over three months.

Medicaid Payments. Mississippi shall pay Medicaid benefits for children placed out of state for which the Mississippi Department of Human Services holds legal responsibility.

Foster Care Payments. Mississippi board rates shall be paid for children placed out of state.

Special Education Payments. Local school boards administer special education funds in Mississippi.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Child Abuse HOTLINE. Calls are toll free in Mississippi only. Telephone: 1-800-222-8000. Central registry on Child Abuse/Neglect, telephone Kendra Tripp at (601) 359-4649 or Pearl Holloway at (601) 359-4483.

Juvenile Compact Office. Telephone: Maxine Baggett at (601) 359-4971.

Adoption Assistance Compact. Telephone: Bridget Powell at (601) 359-4996.