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ICJ Administrative Policy Emergency Guidelines		Dated: November 30, 2009 Revised: March 13, 2020	

I. Authorization

Article VII(A)(1) of the ICJ provides in relevant part that, “The Interstate Commission shall oversee the administration and operations of the interstate movement of juveniles subject to this Compact.”

II. Policy


This policy establishes guidelines for the Interstate Commission for Juveniles during a state of emergency resulting from a prolonged utility failure; natural disaster, including significant hazardous material incident; public health crisis; or terrorist or military attack, including cyber-attacks. While emergencies rarely provide an opportunity to prepare, these guidelines ensure fair and equitable treatment of states by defining procedures during a state of emergency.

III. Responsibility

- A. The State ICJ Office of any state affected by the emergency shall, to the best of its ability, ensure that vital operations, including returns and transfers, are continued to the greatest extent possible, and will communicate essential information to the National Office for appropriate distribution.
- B. The National Office will serve as a communications liaison and announce updates and information regarding the emergency and affected states.

IV. Procedures

- A. Each state will follow their state’s guidelines and procedures for managing, locating, and supervising juveniles in the event of an emergency. States must continue to supervise juveniles without distinction from supervision of intra-state juveniles.
- B. In the event the emergency affects a limited number of states, member states not affected by the emergency may suspend or adjust procedures for interstate transfers and/or returns into or out of the affected areas for a period not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days with the approval from both ICJ offices. If the emergency lasts more

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than thirty (30) days, the timeframes may be extended with the approval from both ICJ offices.

- C. In the event the emergency affects a majority of states, timeframes may be extended beyond the ICJ Rule-related timeframes with the approval from both ICJ offices.
- D. When determining whether time frames should be extended, the nature and scope of the emergency shall be considered, along with any other significant barriers to compliance with the established timelines.
- E. In the event that the emergency affects more than one state or region, transfers, returns, and communication shall be prioritized. The safety, health, and well-being of all juveniles, families, victims, staff, and communities shall be considered when making decisions and determining next steps related to travel, transfers, and returns. States shall collaborate and cooperate for the best of interest of juveniles, families, victims, and communities.
- F. During cases involving emergency evacuations or relocations, member states who receive juveniles from an affected area will notify the Compact Office in the home/sending state, provide assistance and services to juvenile and family, and, if necessary, request proper documentation for transfer if not already submitted.
- G. If essential transportation services are unavailable or severely limited due to government-imposed travel restrictions, airport closures, and/or staff availability, alternative methods for transportation and supervision shall be considered. States shall work cooperatively to address each case on an individual basis.
- H. If the emergency prevents use of the national electronic data system, the state affected by the emergency shall provide the National Office with a plan for continuation of vital operations, including submission of essential information.