

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Rules Committee Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2024

2:00 p.m. ET

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Rules Committee Chair S. Horton (NC) called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. ET.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Voting Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Stephen Horton (NC), Commissioner, Chair
2. Caitlyn Bickford (NH) Commissioner, Vice Chair
3. Judy Miller (AR), Designee
4. Howard Wykes (AZ), Designee
5. Jean Hall (FL), Commissioner
6. Tracy Hudrlik (MN), Commissioner
7. Julie Hawkins (MO), Commissioner
8. Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ), Designee
9. Trissie Casanova (VT), Designee
10. Dawn Bailey (WA), Designee
11. Casey Gerber (WI), Commissioner

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

1. Jen Baer (ID)

Members Not in Attendance:

1. Jennifer LaBaron (NJ), Commissioner
2. Sasaun Lane (OH), Commissioner
3. Jedd Pelander (WA), Commissioner

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Jenny Adkins, Operations and Policies Specialist
3. Joe Johnson, System Project Manager
4. Emma Goode, Logistics and Administrative Specialist

Agenda

S. Horton (NC) approved the agenda by acclamation without objection.

Minutes

T. Hudrlik (MN) made a motion to approve the February 21, 2024, meeting minutes. J. Miller (AR) seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Check-ins

Rules Committee Chair Horton (NC) welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared the following quote by Helen Keller: “The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.”

Reports

Chair Report

- Chair Horton (NC) provided an update on the ICJ Rule Amendments Training. Four training sessions were provided, with a total attendance of 1,189 participants (707 unique individuals) participating in live sessions. He applauded the presenters of the training, stating that it was successful and impactful.
- Chair Horton (NC) advised the Executive Committee provided feedback on survey questions related to returning non-delinquent runaways, which are still under review. The regional representatives were asked to share the purpose of the survey during their April regional meetings and announce that the new survey will be forthcoming soon.

Unfinished Business

West Region Recommendation: Review “danger to themselves or others” in Rules 6-102 and 6-103

- Chair Horton (NC) recalled that the West Region recommended the Rules Committee review the use of the phrase “danger to themselves or others” in ICJ Rules 6-102 and 6-103. The issue was included on the agenda for the previous meeting, then carried over due to time constraints.
- H. Wykes (AZ) advised that some West Region states have reported that some authorities are unwilling to detain juveniles because they are not a “danger to themselves or others.” West Region members have asked who should determine whether a juvenile is a “danger to themselves or others,” noting that the phrase is often used in clinical settings.
- Director Underwood shared that legal precedent has established that “danger to themselves or others” means a person presents a risk of suicide or homicide and added that many judges and attorneys learned of this precedent in law school. Judges often rely on mental health service providers to assess whether a person presents a “danger to themselves or others.”
- H. Wykes (AZ) clarified that the West Region’s recommendation was a suggestion for review. The region did not recommend any specific changes.
- T. Casanova (VT) suggested it would be valuable to define the term in the ICJ Rules to clarify the Commission’s interpretation and establish who should make the determination.
- T. Hudrlik (MN) commented that terms not defined in the rules are interpreted as they commonly are in other settings. She also indicated reluctance to define who makes the determination, as states have probably already established a variety of procedures for this.
- Rules Committee members were split on whether to modify the rule.
- Chair Horton (NC) asked Howard Wykes (AZ), who serves as the West Regional Representative, to request additional data from the region regarding the frequency with which the issue arises and agreed to add the topic to the Rules Committee agenda again after the information is received.

New Business

Finalize 2025 Rules Calendar

- Chair S. Horton (NC) presented an updated ICJ Rules Committee calendar for the current rule amendment cycle.
- T. Hudrlik (MN) noted the deadline for rule proposal submissions was changed to December 31, 2024, due to the 2025 Annual Business Meeting date of August 25-27, 2025.
- Chair S. Horton (NC) affirmed that December 31 was the proposed deadline and reminded members that the window for submitting rule amendment proposals was already open.
- **E. Lee, Jr. (NJ) made a motion to approve the modified ICJ Rules Committee 2025 Calendar as presented. H. Wykes (AZ) seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Next Steps

- The next meeting is May 15, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m. ET.

Adjourn

Rules Committee Chair Horton (NC) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 2:51 p.m. ET.