
As time goes on, keeping the State Council energized can be a challenge. Many states have successful strategies for maintaining an active Council. If this is a challenge in your state, consider contacting the National Office or other Commissioners in your region for ideas and suggestions. Projects undertaken by other states that are both helpful to the Compact Office and suitable for engaging the Council include:

- *Develop a dispute resolution policy and procedure*
 - *Assess Compact Office workload and equipment needs*
 - *Recommend changes in Compact Office business processes and procedures*
 - *Design a training curriculum and schedule training for field officers, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, victim advocates, etc*
 - *Present on the Compact at state conferences and other gatherings*
 - *Recommend changes to the Compact rules*
 - *Discuss the addition of other members that may lend assistance to the Compact*
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Pursuant to the terms of the Interstate Compact for Juveniles each member state may determine the membership of its own State Council, its membership must include at least one representative from the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government, victims groups and the compact administrator, deputy compact administrator or designee. Each compacting state retains the right to determine the qualifications of the compact administrator or deputy compact administrator. Each state council will advise and may exercise oversight and advocacy concerning that state's participation in Interstate Commission activities and other duties as may be determined by that state, including but not limited to, development of policy concerning operations and procedures of the compact within that state.



*Article IX
Interstate Compact
for Juveniles*

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INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Serving Juveniles While Protecting Communities



State Council Orientation Guide

*State Councils
provide the
mechanism for
empowerment of the
Compact process*

Each state is required by statute to establish a State Council for overseeing its intrastate affairs dealing with the Interstate Compact. An active State Council can positively influence a state's compact operation by serving as an advocate when seeking resources, improving operations, resolving disputes and conducting training.

The State Council can help determine if the ICJ Office has adequate staff for Compact operations and assist the Commissioner in developing a state-wide network of resources and advocates.

Each state determines the structure, composition, meeting procedures and budget of their State Council.

“State Councils provide a long-needed forum for the coordination and intrastate management of interstate offenders”

Excerpt from:
The Evolving Use and Changing Role of Interstate Compacts: A Practitioners Guide (ABA Publishing 2006);
Authored by: Caroline N. Braun, Michael L. Buenger,
Michael H. McCabe & Richard L. Masters

Appointing individuals who have a demonstrated interest in the Compact and are influential in your state is critical

When recommending appointments, consider:

- *The candidate's willingness to serve and interest in the Compact process*
 - *If the individual is influential in the juvenile justice community*
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When contacting possible candidates, prepare for the following questions:

- *What is the role of the State Council and expectations of its members?*
 - *What other groups are represented on the State Council?*
 - *How long is the term?*
 - *How often will the State Council meet?*
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Once your State Council is formed, familiarize members with:

- *The Compact and its purpose*
- *The Compact rules and processes*
- *The Commissioner appointment process*
- *The authority of the Compact*



Organization and leadership are the key components for creating and maintaining an effective and energized State Council. The Council is essentially a communication and support mechanism to assist with developing state-wide policy, acquiring critical resources and Compact Office operations.

The first activities of a newly appointed council should be to develop the Council's mission, goals, objectives and meeting procedures.

State Councils address three issues:

1. The Interstate Commission for Juveniles may be unknown outside the agency where the Commissioner works
2. Interstate compliance is not exclusively an issue for one state agency
3. The interstate process is a significant policy concern

Ensuring State Council members are educated on the importance of ICJ is critical to the Council's motivation and acceptance of the role each member plays in successfully implementing policy.