



INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

To: Commissioners and Designees, Interstate Commission for Juveniles

From: Jacey Rader, Chairperson, Interstate Commission for Juveniles

Date: April 8, 2020

RE: Special Emergency Commission Meeting to Vote on Emergency Rule 2-108

Dear Commissioners and Designees,

In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, states are experiencing challenges that were previously unimaginable in their work to implement the Compact. Due to declarations of emergency and other government-imposed restrictions, many states have found it difficult or impossible to comply with ICJ Rules, especially those related to timelines and procedures. We want to find ways to support states in continuing to perform the duties established by Compact to the greatest extent possible.

Though the Executive Committee amended the Commission's Emergency Guidelines policy to include provisions applicable when a crisis impacts multiple states, the extended nature of this crisis requires that additional steps be taken. Therefore, a ***Special Emergency Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 2:00 PM ET.*** Please mark your calendars and plan to join.

After lengthy consultation with the Commission's Legal Counsel and the National Office, I recently charged the Rules Committee with drafting an emergency rule to address concerns raised by many states. On April 7, the Rules Committee voted to recommend adoption of a new rule regarding "***Emergency Suspension of Enforcement,***" which is attached for your review. This proposed emergency rule will be considered for adoption quickly pursuant to ICJ Rule 2-103(10), which outlines requirements for emergency promulgation. I appreciate the prompt and careful attention of the Rules Committee to this matter.

The proposed New Rule would provide a mechanism for authorizing the Executive Committee to suspend the enforcement of Commission Rules or parts thereof. The New Rule would also provide that states must continue performing duties required by the Compact to the greatest extent possible. This approach would strengthen the legal basis for the suspension of strict enforcement of Commission procedures and related timelines, while promoting a return to normalcy as soon as possible. This rule would also reassure states that our focus is on collaboration and partnership as we continue to serve youth and families.

Pursuant to Section III, E of the Interstate Compact for Juveniles, I hereby call a ***Special Emergency Meeting of the Interstate Commission for Juveniles on Thursday, April 23, at 2:00pm ET*** for the purpose Emergency Rule Promulgation. As with any Commission meeting, this Special Emergency meeting requires a quorum of Commissioners (or authorized designees) be present to officially vote on the proposed emergency rule. Though I know that your schedules are exceptionally busy at this time, I respectfully request that you prioritize this meeting so that this essential action can be taken.

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

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Thank you very much for the essential work that you and your state ICJ offices are doing during this unprecedented emergency. I appreciate your dedication and determination to our shared mission during this extraordinary time when we are called to do all we can for those who need us most. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter or others, please feel free to contact me or Executive Director Underwood.

Sincerely,

Jacey R. Rader (NE), Commission Chair