



Iowa Department of Corrections

GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR CHRIS COURNOYER

BETH SKINNER, PHD, DIRECTOR

IOWA BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES Friday November 1st, 2024

Board Members Present: Chair Rebecca Williams, Trent Keller, Jim Kersten, Denise Bubeck, Jay Nelson, Alexa Perez

Staff Present: Paul Cornelius, Nick Lamb, Sally Kreamer, Steve Dick, Sarah Fineran, Roxann Scheffert, Bob Fairfax, Michael Savala, Simona Hammond, Jared Nobbe, Adam Yetmar, Sean Crawford, Dimitrius Bowens, Jeremy Larson, Jennifer Anderson, Elizabeth Dehne

Visitors Present: Amanda Littrel, Chelsea Bright, Darcy Schultz, Eleena Mitchell, Karrie Phillips, Larry Smith, Melanie Rivas, Michelle Alfano, Nick Callahan, Richard Nordin, Rina Foster, Susan Smelden, Lyle Johlas, Gabriel Young

Call to Order - Chair Rebecca Williams

- Chair Williams asks for approval of the September 27th, 2024 meeting minutes. Trent Keller calls for ***motion***. Denise Bubeck ***seconds the motion*** for approval. ***Motion approved.***
- The next Board of Corrections Meeting will be January 10th, 2025 and this meeting will be held as an electronic meeting, please check the Iowa Department of Corrections website for additional details.

Welcome - Paul Cornelius, Chief of Staff

- Director Skinner is currently out of the office on medical leave, and she will be returning November 12th.
- On October 2, 2024 we were at ICIW for a feedback forum and tour. Very positive feedback forum. The two main issues that we hear at these forums are consistent with what we hear around the state, and that is staffing and pay. The Warden is very present and creates a positive culture for the staff.
- On October 4th we held our quarterly All Central Office Staff meeting. We find it important to bring the staff together to have discussion over what has been going on in the department.
- On October 8th, we were at Newton for a feedback forum and tour. This was a great tour, and a great feedback forum. We give high praise to the Warden for the positive culture. The staffing numbers are significantly better than the last feedback forum we attended at NCF.
- On October 10th we held a Joint District Director and Warden meeting, which took place at ICIW. We had a great conversation about culture work in the DOC and what that will look like moving forward for the next couple of years.
- We have started to hold Innovation Forums, and what that consists of is that we open time for staff to bring ideas to us, and then as a team we look into those. Deputy Director Kreamer has been conducting Innovation Forums for the Districts, and Deputy Director Lamb has been conducting Innovation Forums for the Institutions. At the Central Office, I along with Elizabeth conduct the Innovation Forums.



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- On October 24th, Steve Dick, myself, and Jennifer Rathje, our legislative liaison, met with the Governor for our budget proposal. I felt very positive, and the focus was on filling our gaps and making sure that we're asking for things like technology increases and addressing those needs. Very good conversation with the Governor.
- On October 31st we attended the 7th District's 50th Anniversary Celebration, and pinning ceremony for 5 High Risk Officers, which are probation/parole officers that are also police officers that help with security needs in the districts. Trent Keller also attended this celebration, and greatly appreciated him representing the board.
- Denise Bubeck asks if the Chief of Staff position is new, and if there was a Chief of Staff before now? The Chief of Staff position is new, and previously we had Nick Crawford who was a communications specialist. It was determined that the job duties were significant and those have been split off, the legislative liaison was also part of Nick's duties before. We do have a communication specialist who does work with our website and social media and press releases, when it becomes high profile that is where I become involved.
- Trent Keller asks how often do we meet with the Governor for a budget discussion? That is just a once a year meeting for the budget discussion, we do however have weekly meetings with the Governor's office.

Third District Director (Action Item) - Paul Cornelius, Chief of Staff

- Jared Nobbe: I would like to thank Director Skinner and Deputy Director Kreamer for this opportunity. I started my career at the Iowa Department of Corrections in the Third District in 2012 as a residential officer. Since then, I have held a variety of positions, which include a probation and parole officer. I was involved in many different facets of the day-to-day operations. I will be taking over for Maureen Hansen who officially retired after a 34 year career with the department. She left the department in a great place, and I want to continue to build upon that by doing all we can for our staff and clients and creating an opportunity for safer communities. I look forward to serving for the years to come.
- Paul Cornelius states that we would like to bring Jared forth for appointment.
- Chair Williams asks for a motion to appoint Jared as their District Director. **Motion** from Trent Keller. Chair Williams asks for a second motion. Jay Nelson **seconds motion** for approval. All are in favor of approval. **Motion approved.** Chair Williams congratulates Jared.

Michelle Dix Retirement - Paul Cornelius, Chief of Staff

- Michelle Dix is currently the Director for the Fifth District, who will be retiring soon.
- Deputy Director Kreamer has done a really good job of working with DAS, Department of Administrative Services, to get that position posted and as it is currently posted right now.
- Our goal for posting the position now is to have overlap in training

2025 Meeting Schedule - Paul Cornelius, Chief of Staff

- We are looking at 2025 meeting dates with the Board, and would like to get those onto the calendars, and we have proposed some dates for this.



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- We are looking at holding quarterly meetings. We are also looking at electronic meetings as well and would like to present those for your thoughts.
- Jay Nelson: I was under the impression that the board had some interest in meeting in person, at least once in a while? Paul: My understanding of the Code is that the Board still has the authority to do that. These meetings would just be set and if you wanted to call a meeting then we could do so at any time. Hybrid is the word used in Code and we will need to figure out the logistics of that.
- Denise Bubeck: With the Code, and the new changes, they can't just move these to being in person all the time, it is confusing? Paul: We are also confused on that as well, as in Code the term hybrid is used, and that is what this setting is. There would be electronic, but also there would be in person. If we are to set a meeting it will fall under that hybrid status, per Code. We can do some in person, but I think you are going to see the majority of people would probably be online.
- Jim Kersten: It would be nice to be able to be flexible to have some in person meetings, that can make it some online. From a public standpoint too, it is nice to have in person meetings. Paul: I do feel that way as well that there is benefit to having some in-person meetings as well, we will need to be mindful of the word hybrid being used, so we will need to provide electronic as well for people to join.
- Chair Williams: It seems to me we have been doing that for the last year, haven't we? Jim Kersten: Yes, before fall.
- Chair Williams: I appreciate the ability, and I do think it's unanimous with the Board Members that we are feeling that we need to get into Institutions as that has gone beside the wayside in the last several months. Paul: If the Board wants some time to look at those dates, and think about it, we do have the next meeting scheduled for January 10th. If you want to have that discussion to have some time to talk, as a Board, you can do that. We were thinking that it's November and trying to plan ahead and get some dates on the calendar.
- Chair Williams: I appreciate you getting the ball rolling, and I will make a point to start an email among the Board Members to maybe plug in a few other meetings. Jim Kersten and Trent Keller both agree.

Interstate Compact Presentation - Simona Hammond

- The Interstate Commission for Adult Offenders Supervision is a national governing body that is made up of all 50 states and three US territories, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Island, that has rulemaking authority to enforce compliance with the compact rules.
- What does the Interstate Compact do? We regulate and track the movement of probationers across the state line, which is the basis of the Compact.
- Rule 2.110 states that at no stage shall allow a supervised individual to relocate without going through the formal transfer request through the Interstate Compact. When a client transfers to another state, this does not mean this is an opportunity for them to evade the conditions imposed by courts, and the parole board, and the sending state. When the transfer is initiated, the Client, subject to the conditions of supervision imposed by both the sending and receiving state. Under the Compact, the receiving state has an obligation to treat a Compact Client as they would treat their own. The Compact provides a



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mechanism for a client to be returned to the sending state when they violate the conditions of supervision.

- The purpose of the Interstate Compact is to promote public safety, while protecting the victim and the rights of the victims with ensuring effective supervision and controlling the movement of probationers/ parolees as they move from one state to another.
- The Interstate Compact legislation is binding. The Compact dates to 1937 and was part of the American Probation and Parole Association. It was revised in the early 2000s. Iowa adopted the revised Compact in 2002. By adopting the Compact we agree that all agencies, the courts, parole boards, community-based corrections, or other executive agencies, have the obligation to enforce the Compact, so everyone is subject to the Compact Rules.
- The compact is authorized by the US Constitution, the Compact Rules supersede any local law and policies.
- A Supreme Court ruling in the 70s/80s stated that a convicted person does not have the right to relocate to initiate a transfer under the Interstate Compact, discretion of the supervising officer as the one determining whether a transfer under the Compact is appropriate or not by statute.
- Our office is responsible for conducting training, whether this is with field officers, county attorney's, jailers and more. We are responsible for ensuring that everybody in the state of Iowa is compliant with the Interstate Compact Rules and regulation. We have a lot of communication with the external stakeholders so that they are aware and compliant with the Interstate Compact.
- We also have a State Council. Requirements are that the State Council contain at least one member of the Governor's Office, legislative representative, judicial representation, and victim representation.
- We view the State Council as a mechanism to help us advocate for compact rules and ensure compliance with external stakeholders.
- Last fiscal year we processed a little over 1,400 incoming cases, 295 of those are parole cases, over 1,100 probation cases. We do a lot of business with our neighboring states. Illinois is our top state, followed by Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.
- For outgoing cases, we do send out of Iowa more than we receive. Last fiscal year, over 1,600 total cases out, of which 474 cases were parole, over 1,100 probation. These cases are also managed by the Compact Office, we handle the charges, violations, and arrange extraditions, and revocation is when they are brought back to Iowa.
- Denise Bubeck asks when someone is transferred out how does restitution hold to Iowa? Or is it held where they go? How does that work with someone who is brought into Iowa from another State? How do we gain by taking new people? Simona: Restitution is paid back in the sending state. For somebody going out of Iowa to another state, they are responsible for paying those court fines, restitution to Iowa, which is monitored by the supervising agent here in Iowa.
- Denise Bubeck asks, is there a double standard? Do they need to pay where they are going because they are under some type of supervision where they go, and do we see some type of payment for supervising someone from another state? Simona: In terms of supervision fees, they are not charged double. If someone goes out of Iowa straight from prison, for example to Nebraska, we do not charge the supervision fee, they will pay that fee to Nebraska, and likewise for income cases those supervision fees are paid to Iowa.



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- The commission is also in charge of compliance, and we do have yearly audits. The commission also resolves formal complaints filed by states against each other for violating the compact. Since 2005, the commission has resolved more than 65 state file complaints; we have not had any complaints or compliance issues in a little over 10 years.
- For any transfer request incoming to Iowa, we have 45 calendar days to investigate and submit a reply to the sending state.
- Jay Nelson: You are talking about probation for folks, those in Ken Pirc's office still handle the prison compact transfers? Simona: That is a different compact, that is not subject to our rule. Those are two different entities. We do have more rules, regulations, and compliances than they do.
- Chair Williams thanks Simona for her presentation.

Public Comments - Public

- Susan Smelden: I am a nursing professor and involved with Iowans Unafraid. I would like to address the letter I received, and I do appreciate getting a letter, because I can understand my interpretation of what I got is that you are listening but are not hearing. I was speaking about bedding, and that was about the public, not specific to my family member. Many of us are elderly and we are living on fixed incomes, when rules are changed, you're looking at the people who put money on their books and that is not coming from the inmate, it is coming from us elderly that are raising their children. I speak for all people, I see all inmates, I am a nurse, and that's my job. I will also address the Mandela Laws and how that overrides all state laws.
- Amanda Littrel: I'm the Executive Director of Iowans Unafraid. We are a volunteer, grassroots nonprofit organization devoted to making society safer while restoring the constitutional rights of those on the public's sex offender registry. Our organization is represented by families and friends, who advocate for the rights of our loved ones while providing public education, supported by data, not the false narrative that the media continues to spread. I have two questions for the board today, one was we were told that at the last meeting that answers to our questions would be heard or would be answered, and we would be notified. Many individuals have contacted our organization and have said that they have not heard a response back from anybody from the Department of Corrections. The other question I have is we would love to have a collaboration with the Department of Corrections and to know who to contact to start that conversation.
- Melanie Laws: I'm here to address the fentanyl crisis here in Iowa and to help provide solutions. I am the president the American Association for Treatment of Opioid Disorders here in Iowa. The initiative is to bring all OTPs together to provide community solutions to this fentanyl crisis here In Iowa. We have four OTPs that all participate in this organization. I am also the regional director for Behavioral Health Group. I oversee Iowa, Idaho and Arizona, and the vice president for a nonprofit organization called Harm Reduction over overdose that facilitates education on harm reduction services to prevent overdose in our community. I'm here to advocate and ask for a roundtable discussion or meeting with the Department of Corrections to solve these three following things. One, to allow all four Opioid Treatment Organizations here in Iowa, to partner and help



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implement medication assisted treatment programs within our correctional facilities, not only for the inmates that are arrested and already on map programs, but also for any inmate that comes in with the opioid diagnose disorder. Secondly, we would like to implement a reentry program with all four OTPs connecting correctional facilities with the closest OTP. Thirdly, we would like to help in any sort of education efforts with correctional facility staff.

- Michelle Alfano: I've been coming to this meeting to raise issues about the multidisciplinary team, the MDT, there are currently five members on this team none of which are medical doctors. To meet the criteria for the MDT for IDOC to refer a case to the Attorney General there must be a mental abnormality which is diagnosed by a medical doctor. The IDOC has five people on the MDT who are not qualified to make a medical diagnosis. There have been 35 cases that have been filed against the Iowa Department of Corrections in the Iowa court system by men at Newton Correctional Facility. This is the issue that I've been bringing to you for two years now. I expect more cases will be filed. One of the problems is that no one on the MDT is qualified to do a medical exam and determine this abnormality. Without the qualifications it renders the referrals people are to not meet the criteria.
- Mary Cohen: I used to lead the Oakdale Prison Community Choir at the Iowa Medical Classification Center from 2009 to 2020. Covid stopped it and then the new guidelines of needing to require staff at the volunteer programs. Our goals are to build communities of caring. What happened in this project is we had outside community members singing alongside incarcerated individuals and the research overwhelmingly indicated that it provided a space for incarcerated individuals to feel a sense of worthiness defined both by competence and by self-esteem. I wanted to say thank you because I did receive a letter in postal mail to my university office saying that you're thinking now about how you might be able to add arts programs back into Iowa to prisons, So, I would love to hear more about that and what are you thinking? I'd like to hear what's possible with arts programs in the DOC.
- Darcy Schultz: I spoke at the September Board Meeting about my concerns that I never received a reply from the board or DOC. So, that's why I'm speaking again today. I'm still very upset that the young man died in September. I'd like to know what the DOC and Newton Correctional Facility are doing to assure that the death of this young person never happens again. If your argument is that Newton is understaffed, you need to release some of the people at Newton who are ready for release. This brings me to my second concern: according to your DOC website, Iowa prisons are overcrowded about 21%. Overcrowding is an issue in every prison in Iowa. The overcrowding is dangerous for your staff. There are many people at NCF who are ready to be released, they're eligible for parole, but the MDT is blocked. In effect the MDT has kind of created this dangerous working condition for DOC staff.

Open Discussion - Board Members

- Jay Nelson: I would like to be aware of significant events that happen within the department. There have been a couple of instances recently where I have been



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contacted about something that I did not know anything about and had to Google. I would like to be notified so that I have a heads up if I do need to speak about it.

- Chair Williams: I agree, if we can limit it to more significant events that we should really know about I would appreciate that and would request the same thing.
- Trent Keller: I also would like to comment that it will be good to know what is going on because we watch it on the news, read it in the newspaper, and we need to know what we are looking up. To be safe within our communities in the districts that we live in, and on assault cases on staff, hiring issues, it would be nice to know more. Director Skinner and staff are doing their best, but I believe that it'll be nice for us to have a heads up on what is going on.
- Trent Keller: I think it is nice if we can allow when it's not a lot of public comments to give people that are traveling a little more time to comment on their issues with what is going on inside the institution, where it's their family members and so on.
- Trent Keller: I want to thank Paul Cornelius for the wonderful time yesterday at the Seventh District, it was awesome to see those five high risk officers being sworn in. They will be doing more than just working with the facilities, but with their communities. I think that it will be nice to have all districts have a program as such in the future.
- Trent Keller: Rockwell City has a speaker that comes into lecture, and it makes it engaged in any lecture to talk about their own responsibilities and personal lives, and that was nice to hear Chris Wilson. I notice that those inmates are very engaged, and really enjoy themselves, and the accountability just to hear someone talk about their own experiences.
- Trent Keller: I want to say that it's nice to hear that people are receiving letters, so I know the department is doing the best to get those out for public comments.
- Jim Kersten: I would like to ask that since we have a lot of discussions at multiple meetings regarding the MDT process, and we continue to deal with this as those are cases referred to the Attorney General offices, that would it be appropriate or proper to have someone from the Attorney General office come to next board meeting to explain their process and educate not only the board but the public about the requirements?
Board Members agree with this suggestion.

Adjournment - Board Members

- Chair Williams calls for motion to adjourn. ***Jim Kersten Motions.*** Chair Williams asks for a second. ***Denise Bubeck seconds motion.*** The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Dehne, Executive Officer

Board of Correction 2025 Calendar -Electronic Meetings

January 10, 2025 10:00am - 1:00pm

April 11, 2025 10:00am-1:00pm

July 11, 2025 10:00am-1:00pm

October 10, 2025 10:00am-1:00pm



Presented by:

Simona Hammond

Supervised Individuals Crossing State Lines

Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision

National Governing Body



Members of the ICAOS: _____

- › All 50 states
- › District of Columbia
- › US Virgin Islands
- › Puerto Rico

Rule Making Authority

Compliance Enforcement

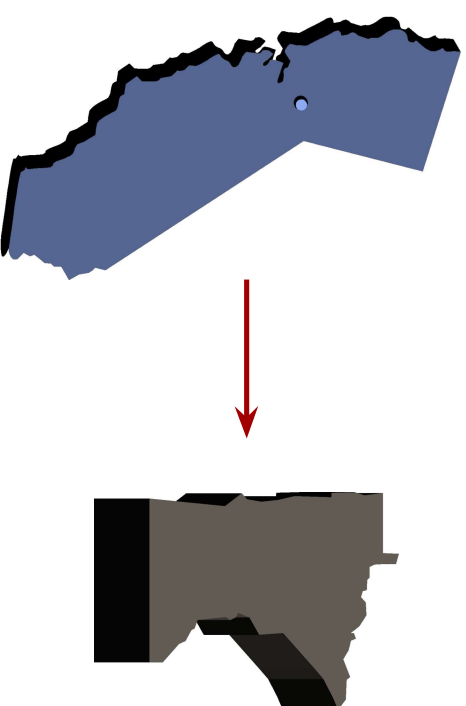


Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision



ICAOA regulates how offenders are:

- › Transferred from one state to another
- › Supervised while on Compact Supervision
- › Returned to a sending state when supervision is not successful





Purpose of ICAOS

Promote Public Safety

Ensure effective
Supervision &
Rehabilitation.



Protect the Rights of
Victims

Control/Track
Movement of
Offenders.

Interstate Compact Legislation

Courts, Parole Boards, Community
Corrections & Other Executive Agencies:

- › Subject to the ICAOS Rules
- › Must enforce & effectuate the Compacts

Iowa Code 907B



Authority of an Interstate Compact

Authorized

The Compact is authorized by US Constitution & Crime Control Act



Binding

The Compact is binding upon all state authorities & citizens



Supersedes

The Compact rules supersedes conflicting state law



Authority to Regulate

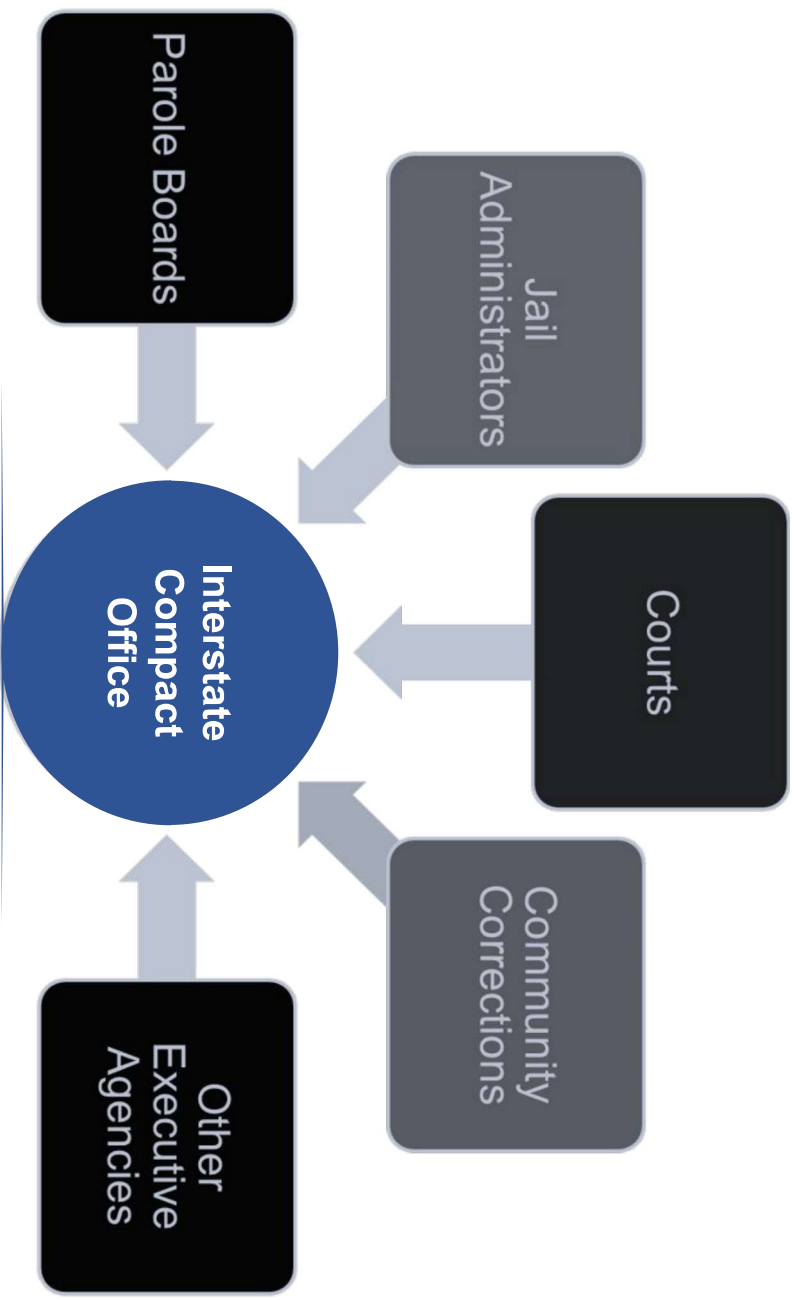


There is no “right” of convicted persons to travel across state lines or to serve one’s sentence in a particular state. See, Jones v. Harris, 452 U.S. 412 (1981); Meachum v. Fano, 427 U.S. 215 (1976)

Convicted persons have no right to control where they live; the right is extinguished for the balance of their sentence. Williams v. Wisconsin, 336 F.3d 576 (7th Cir. 2003), Pelland v. RI, 317 F. Supp. 2d 26 (2004)

Interstate Compact Offices

- Administers the Compact
- Point of contact for case specific questions
- Conducts training
- Resolves issues with other states
- Ensures rule compliance
- Develops & recommends in-state ISC operating procedures to State Council



State Council Role

- › Provide mechanism for empowerment and awareness of Compact processes;
- › Determine state impact of Commission action(s) or potential action(s);
- › Assist in developing Compact policy;
- › Appoint Acting Commissioner in absence of appointed Commissioner

Each state determines their state council membership. Membership must include at least one of the following:

- *Governor Representative*
 - *Legislative Representative*
 - *Judicial Representative*
 - *Victim's Advocate*
-



FY24 Case Transfers Overview

› Incoming Cases: 1,445

▪ Parole: 295

▪ Probation: 1,140

▪ Probation & Parole: 15

▪ Top 5 Sending States to Iowa:

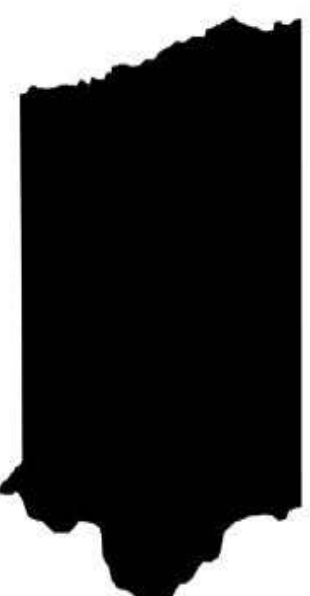
1. Illinois (302 cases)
2. Minnesota (175 cases)
3. Missouri (170 cases)
4. Nebraska (149 cases)
5. Wisconsin (112 cases)

FY24 Case Transfers Overview

- › Outgoing Cases: 1,638 total
 - › Parole: 474
 - › Probation: 1,160
- › Probation & Parole: 8

› Top 5 Receiving States from Iowa

- › 1. Illinois (486 cases)
- › 2. Nebraska (189 cases)
- › 3. Minnesota (176 cases)
- › 4. Missouri (118 cases)
- › 5. South Dakota (82 cases)



Compliance: Monitoring & Enforcement

- The Commission monitors compliance with the interstate compact and its rules and intervenes address noncompliance.

- ICAOS conducts annual audits to ensure states' compliance with the Compact and its rules.

- ICAOS resolves state filed complaints and assists with informal dispute resolution.

- The ICAOS has resolved more than 65 state filed complaints since 2005.

FY2024 Compliance Stats

Case Closure Compliance *(10 Business Days)*

CCN State



CCN National



Case Closure Reply Compliance *(10 Business Days)*

CCN Reply State



CCN Reply National



Requested Progress Report Compliance *(30 Calendar Days)*

Requested PR State



Requested PR National



RI Reply Compliance *(2 Business Days [3 for sex offenders])*

RI-Reply State



RI-Reply National



Transfer Reply Compliance *(45 Calendar Days)*

Transfer Reply State



Transfer Reply National



Violation Response Compliance *(10 Business Days)*

Violation Response State



Violation Response National





Questions

Interstate Compacts for Adult Offender Supervision



Thank You

Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision