



February 11, 2026

Notifications about children in care

- If the child is in DCS custody and a request is made for DCS to pick up the child, a Status Communication will be generated.
- Select Pick Up of Court Ward as the Intake Type.

Runaways:

Persons within the juvenile jurisdictional age limit established by the home state who (1) have voluntarily left their residence without permission of their legal guardian or custodial agency or (2) refuse to return to their residence as directed by their legal guardian or custodial agency, but who may or may not have been adjudicated.

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Unaccompanied Minors

The purpose of this matrix is to support the screening decision made by the Intake Specialist when notification is received about an unaccompanied minor. Not all notifications of an unaccompanied child will require DCS intervention. Some unaccompanied children qualify under the protocols of the Interstate Commission for Juveniles (ICJ) and will not meet the criteria for DCS involvement. There will also be exceptions not listed in the matrix. In such situations, the Intake Specialist will contact the Help Queue for additional guidance.

The Interstate Compact for Juveniles

Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) is an agreement between all 50 U.S. states, Washington D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands that helps manage and supervise juveniles who cross state lines. It ensures that young people on probation, parole, or who have run away from home are safely returned and properly supervised, no matter where they go. The compact helps states work together to protect public safety and support rehabilitation, while making sure juveniles are treated fairly and consistently.

ICJ Screening

Screening Questions

1. Is the source Law Enforcement?
 - a. **Yes** – continue to the questions 2 – 6.
 - b. **No** – assess the information provided by the source and complete the screening decision using the Unaccompanied Minor Matrix.
2. Is the child a resident of Arizona or enrolled in any federally recognized tribe?
 - a. **Yes** – assess the information provided by the source and complete the screening decision using the Unaccompanied Minor Matrix.
 - b. **No** - continue to the questions 3 – 6
3. Is the child currently on probation, parole, or under court supervision?
4. Is the child a ward of another state's child welfare agency?
5. Is there an active warrant or court order from another state involving this child?
6. Is the child considered a runaway from another state?

Screening Decision

1. If **any** of Questions 3–6 = **Yes** – The child **qualifies** under ICJ
 - a. Are there allegations of abuse or neglect?
 - i. **No** – Screened Out Intake
Inform the source:
"Based on the Interstate Compact for Juveniles, DCS is prohibited from intervening and taking custody of the child. Would you like the contact information for Arizona's point of contact who can assist with compliance to the ICJ protocol and facilitating the secure transfer of the child across state lines?"
 - ii. **Yes** – Screen as a Report
Inform the source:
"The information you've provided meets criteria for a DCS Report. However, based on the Interstate Compact for Juveniles, DCS is prohibited from intervening and taking custody of the child. Would you like the contact information for Arizona's point of contact who can assist with compliance to the ICJ protocol and facilitating the secure transfer of the child across state lines?"
2. If **all** of Questions 3–6 = **No** – The child does **not qualify** under ICJ
 - a. Asses the information provided by the source and complete the screening decision using the Unaccompanied Minor Matrix.

Unaccompanied Minors

Unaccompanied Minor Matrix					
Circumstances for a Pick Up Request	Source	Intake Category			Notes
		Report	Action Request	Screened Out Intake	
Parent cannot be reached.	Court via Court Order		✓		Intake Type: Court Ordered Pickup
	Detention		✓		Intake Type: Parent Unavailable
	Law Enforcement Agency		✓		Intake Type: Parent Unavailable
	U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)	✓			Allegation Description: Caregiver is absent
	All other Source Types	✓			Allegation Description: Caregiver is absent Example: Source is a school or hospital.
Parent can be reached but refuses to pick up. Parent is in Arizona.	Court via Court Order	✓			Allegation Description: Caregiver unwilling or unable to meet child's needs; P2 with field notification Allegation Tracking: Court Ordered Pickup
	Detention	✓			Allegation Description: Caregiver unwilling or unable to meet child's needs; P2 with field notification
	Law Enforcement Agency	✓			Allegation Description: Caregiver unwilling or unable to meet child's needs; P2 with field notification ; Obtain DR
	U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)	✓			Allegation Description: Caregiver unwilling or unable to meet child's needs; P2 with field notification
	All other Source Types	✓			Allegation Description: Caregiver unwilling or unable to meet child's needs; P2 with field notification
Parent can be reached but is unable to pick up AND the Parent is in Arizona.	Court via Court Order		✓		Intake Type: Court Ordered Pickup
	Detention			✓	Encourage source to continue engaging with the family and exploring other resources
	Law Enforcement Agency		✓		Assess circumstances: Timeframe for parents to pick up child (24 hours), distance between parent and child, and age of child
	All other Source Types		✓	✓	
	U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)		✓	✓	Intake Type: Parent Unavailable
Parent can be reached but is unable to pick up AND the Parent is outside of Arizona. *Child has permission to be in Arizona	Court via Court Order		✓		Intake Type: Court Ordered Pickup
	Detention		✓		Intake Type: Parent Unavailable
	Law Enforcement Agency		✓		Intake Type: Parent Unavailable
	U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)	✓			Allegation Description: Caregiver unwilling or unable to meet child's needs; P2 with field notification
	All other Source Types		✓		Intake Type: Parent Unavailable