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# DCA Empowerment

Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

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## Presentation Objectives

In this webinar you will learn about:

- › Role of Commission, Commissioner & DCA
- › Importance of communication to work out issues
- › Enforcing the Compact in your own state
- › Resources available to assist with difficult conversations

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## Compact Roles Explained

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**Purpose of ICAOS**



Promote Public Safety

Ensure Effective Supervision & Rehabilitation

Protect the Rights of Victims

Control/Track Movement of Offenders

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**Role of Commission, Commissioner & DCA**

**Commission**

Promulgate rules & enforce compliance to achieve the purpose of the compact

**Commissioner**

- Represent state in Commission
- Ensure adequate resources, work w/ state officials to enact policy/legislation change

**DCA**

- Manages day to day
- Coordinates activities & act as resources for stakeholders
- Ensure compliance
- Communicate needs to Commissioner

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**What is a DCA?**

**Manage**

- › Ensure your state is compliant
- › Administrate ICOTS Users & Compact Office Staff
- › Manage Workflow
- › Establish procedures to ensure compact fits into supervision requirements

**Resource**

- › Act as resource and main point of contact for all stakeholders (supervising agencies, courts, jails, etc.
- › Keep Commissioner apprised of compact related issues & ask for assistance when needed

**Cooperate**

- › Communicate and work out issues with other states
- › Participate in trainings & discussions
- › Resolve conflict with internal stakeholders & other states

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## Commissioner Role

- **Ensure Compact statute requirements are met:**  
Attend meetings/vote, functioning state council, due are paid
- **Ensure adequate resources for compact office:**  
staffing levels, technology, training opportunities, policies & practices align with ICAOS rules
- **Secure necessary relationships for optimal compact operations:** stakeholders, informed on field operations, propose policy/legislative changes
- **Resolve conflict unable to be resolved by DCA:**  
internally, with other states, ask for assistance when necessary & file complaints

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## Importance of Commissioner/DCA Relationship

DCA should:	Commissioner should:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Keep the commissioner informed of the workflow and compliance of the ICAOS operations.</li> <li>› Elevate non-compliance issues that cannot be resolved to the commissioner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Create communication opportunities</li> <li>› Relay problems/concerns to state council or agency leaders to reach resolution</li> <li>› Be mindful of the compliance of its state &amp; ICAOS rules</li> </ul>

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## 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

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graph TD
    IA[Interstate Compact Office] <--> JA[Jail Administrators]
    IA <--> C[Courts]
    IA <--> CC[Community Corrections]
    IA <--> PB[Parole Boards]
    IA <--> OEA[Other Executive Agencies]
  
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ICAOS Directory <https://www.interstatecompact.org/regions-states>

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Resolve by Communication

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Know Expectations

**Work Together & Stay Connected**

**PRIORITY**

**Public Safety #1**

- › Prevent absconders
- › Always provides good documentation & communication in ICOTS
- › Elevate when warranted

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Good Communication & Positive Relationships

Why do I have....	Why don't I have....
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Investigate and do not assume my state is in the right.</li> <li>› Good listener/responsive</li> <li>› Willingness to compromise</li> <li>› Ask questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Understanding/recognizing the differences in supervision practices</li> <li>› Do not like confrontation</li> <li>› Inflexible</li> <li>› Unavailable/unresponsive</li> </ul>

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### Importance of Positive Relationships

- External**
  - You are going to need each other
  - Understand Perspective
  - Always THINK Purpose of the Compact....
- Internal**
  - Challenge thoughts/feelings
  - Don't fall into the 'Always' & 'Never' about other states
  - Data doesn't lie-Invalid rejection: Are your officers verifying plans/providing sufficient detail? Are staff reviewing?

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### Relationship Building

- Learn How Other States Operate**
  - What is their authority, the court's authority, violation matrix, etc.
  - Example, some agents/officers can issue warrants, some only the court can
- Ask Questions!**
  - "Can you tell me how your state handles this...."
  - Look at situation from other state's perspective or offender's perspective
- Documentation**
  - Provide whole story
  - ALWAYS review the offender profile
  - Suggest/Implement ways to be more clear
- Open & Honest**
  - Own it & fix it!
  - No finger pointing!

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### Communication Opportunities & Strategies

<b>DCA Region Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apprise other states of law/policy changes</li> <li>Poll on how states handle....</li> <li>Consensus building</li> </ul>	<b>Border Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet face to face</li> <li>Open Dialogue</li> </ul>	<b>Take Initiative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly Status to review ongoing cases/issues</li> <li>Suggest improvements</li> <li>Constant problem solving</li> </ul>
<b>Phone a Friend</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get outside unbiased feedback and perspective</li> </ul>	<b>Seek New DCAs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next ABM meet all new DCAs</li> </ul>	

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# Enforcing Compact

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## Interstate Compact Legislation

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

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

Know your statute!!!




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## Statute Explained



*ICAOS is enacted into law by YOUR STATE*

- 1 Requires Rules to be Promulgated & Applied
  - › Adhering to the Core Purpose of the Compact
  - › Efficiently & Effectively
- 2 Outlines Commission's Duties
  - › Establish By-laws, Council, Policy, etc.
  - › Reporting to State Officials
  - › Monitor Compliance/Establish Measures
- 3 Defines Commissioner Appointment Process (which varies state to state)

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### 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



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### Implications of Non-Compliance

It is incumbent upon prosecutors, judges and other state officials to understand the requirements of the Compact and its rules, as well as the consequences of non-compliance.

Failure of state judicial or executive branch officials to comply with the Compact and its rules results in the state defaulting on its obligations under the Compact and could lead the Commission to take corrective or punitive action, including suit in federal court for injunctive relief.

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### Know what needs Improvement



#### Review the Rules & Self-Assess

- › Know what rules pose challenges for your state and keep the conversation on it.
- › Take initiative/action

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**Information & Communication are Key!**

- › Educate your Commissioner
  - › Provide info, updates
  - › Identify issues
  - › Develop a plan
- › Know what information is important and relevant to each stakeholder
  - › Speak in terms they understand
  - › Provide quick references to get buy in
  - › Incorporate State Council members

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**Effect Change in Your State**



Think Outside the Box to implement:

- › Policies
- › Procedures
- › Strategies

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**Examples**

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Retaking</b>	<b>Warrants</b>
› Moved appointment from Parole to Probation	› Streamline process/self conduct › Develop hold process	› Walk through with court › Improve/develop tracking
<b>State Council Meeting</b>	<b>Courts</b>	<b>Policy/Legislation</b>
› Collaborative agenda	› Pre-Sentence processes	› NE's Supreme Court ruling on custodial sanctions & Parole's response to client behavior policy

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# Resources to Assist

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## Regional DCA Meetings

- COVID-19 highlighted importance:**
  - Learned how restrictions impacted business in each state while keeping the focus on working together to maintain public safety
- Identify best practices:**
  - In addition to learning each other's challenges, share best practices
- Build relationships:**
  - Learn from each other. Opens opportunity for ongoing engagement and relationship building
- Empower each other:**
  - In absence of Commissioners, DCAs can strengthen communication and discuss issues & decisions considered by the Commission

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## DCA Region Chairs

Region DCA Chairs

Midwest	East	South	West
			
Matthew Billinger, Kansas	Natalie Laluppe, Connecticut	Tim Strickland, Florida	Tanja Gilmore, Washington

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## State Council



Diverse State Councils connect Interstate Compact with various state agencies:

- Establishes allies & advocates for Interstate office
- Provides opportunity for outside feedback & perspective
- Regular meetings are key & should highlight positive topics over negative
- Opens opportunity to provide training to stakeholders

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## DCA Mentoring Program

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Who Can Participate?	Getting Started	What is Learned?	Point of Contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› New DCAs</li> <li>› Any DCA referred by Commissioner for specific goal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› DCA Liaison assesses needs and assigns mentor</li> <li>› Resources &amp; worksheets on ICAOS support site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Roles for DCA &amp; Compact Office</li> <li>› Review Rules &amp; legal publications</li> <li>› Roles of Commission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Regular meetings</li> <li>› Consults with on difficult or unique cases</li> <li>› Advises on issues or questions</li> </ul>

<https://support.interstatecompact.org/hc/en-us/sections/207450728-ICAOS-Information-DCA-Mentoring-Program>

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## National Office Assistance

<b>Technical</b>	<b>Training</b>	<b>Resource</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› ICOTS Support</li> <li>› Dashboards</li> <li>› Website &amp; Directory</li> <li>› Communications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Compact Staff trainings</li> <li>› OnDemand trainings</li> <li>› TTA for stakeholders</li> <li>› PowerPoint templates</li> <li>› <a href="#">NEW Legal Training PPT!</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Identifies problem areas</li> <li>› Strategy &amp; best practice development</li> <li>› Problem solving</li> <li>› Publications</li> </ul>

39

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### National Office Staff



*We exist to support the Commission's motivations, needs and expectations through innovation and education as the backbone and public face of the Commission. The National Office serves the Commission as a liaison by developing and providing resources for communication, organization and training. Our excellence, efficiency and professionalism benefit the Commission, victims, offenders, law enforcement agencies, and society as a whole.*

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### ICAOS Resources: [www.interstatecompact.org](http://www.interstatecompact.org)



**Compact Online Reference Encyclopedia**

A cross-referenced guide on all ICAOS white papers, advisory opinions, training modules, rules, PC Hearing Officer Guide and the bench book.

<https://interstatecompact.org/core-search>



**Training Support**

All of the Commission's training material, resources and on-demand modules in one convenient location.

<https://interstatecompact.org/user/login/quickstart/#/manage-app>



**Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System**

The Commission's national tracking system that administers the transfers for all compact offenders.

<https://interstatecompact.org/user/login/quickstart/#/trackbook-app>



**ICAOS Bench Book for Judges and Courts**

The Commission's judicial reference tool to assist judges and court personnel on the Compact.

<https://interstatecompact.org/bench-book>

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### Dashboard Reports

More than 35 reports:

- Due Date Management
- Compliance Performance
- ICOTS User Administration
- Compact Activity History (stats)

Use to:

- Report to Stakeholders
- Analyze to identify problem areas/training needs



<https://www.interstatecompact.org/icaos-dashboards>

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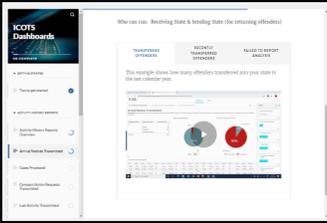
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**Dashboard Training**

OnDemand training available to website users with access to Dashboards

Provides descriptions and demonstrations for various uses

More resources on support site

<https://www.icotis.com/Products/ICOTIS-Dashboards>

<https://support.interstatecompact.org/Help/Content/Articles/20150407-8-Report>

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**Questions**

Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision

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**Thank You**

Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision

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