

As time goes on keeping energized can be a challenge. Many states have successful strategies for maintaining an active Council. If this has been 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 legislative changes and lobby legislative groups*
- *Recommend changes to the Compact rules*

“As an advocate for victims of crime it is refreshing to be a member of Arizona’s State Council and to be able to voice the concerns and have the rights of crime victims considered when dealing with interstate compact—none of the least of which includes the rights of victims to be informed, involved, and included in the criminal justice process.”

*Dan Levy
Arizona Victim’s Representative*

Pursuant to the terms of the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision 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 compact administrators. In addition to appointment of its commissioner to the National Interstate Commission, each State Council shall exercise oversight and advocacy concerning its participation in Interstate Commission activities and other duties as may be determined by each member state including but not limited to, development of policy concerning operations and procedures of the compact within that state.

Article IV
Interstate Compact on Adult
Offender Supervision



Interstate Commission for
Adult Offender Supervision

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Interstate Commission for
Adult Offender Supervision

STATE COUNCIL ORIENTATION GUIDE

***State Councils provide the
Mechanism for Empowerment
of the Compact Process
within each State***

The Commission regulates interstate operations and affairs for the ICAOS. Each state however is required by statute to establish a State Council for overseeing its intrastate affairs dealing with the Interstate Compact. An active State Council can have a positive influence on each state’s compact operation. Specifically, the Council can serve as an advocate when seeking resources, improving operations, resolving disputes and conducting training.

By establishing a State Council, an appointed group who oversees the interests of all three branches of government, states can ensure that officials are aware of the Interstate Compact and that the state is taking full advantage of the Interstate Compact’s structure and benefits.

Forming Your State Council

Each state determines the structure, composition and budget of their State Council. Generally, a State Council must include at least one representative from the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government, victim groups, other community interest groups and the Compact Administrator. Before deciding on specific appointments you will need to review the legislation specific to your state.

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

Excerpt from *The Evolving Use and Changing Role of Interstate Compacts: A Practitioner’s Guide* (ABA Publishing 2006)

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Making Appointments

Appointing individuals who have a demonstrated interest in the compact and are influential in the public safety arena in your state is critical.

The appointment process is often cumbersome and lengthy. Governors, legislators and judges are responsible for many appointments to any number of boards, councils and advisory groups and do not always have a list of candidates ready at

hand. By taking the initiative to recommend suitable candidates for appointment who are willing to serve, the Compact Administrator may be able to speed up the appointment process.

Consider the following factors when recommending appointments:

- *Is the candidate willing to serve on the Council?*
- *Does the candidate have a demonstrated interest in the Compact process?*
- *Is the individual well known in the criminal justice community?*
- *Is the candidate influential?*

When contacting possible candidates for appointment to the Council it is helpful to be prepared to share your views and expectations. In advance of asking an individual if they are willing to be considered for appointment it may be helpful to prepare an information packet to include a copy of relevant statutes, policies, procedures, the Commission’s latest annual report, By-Laws, rules, advisory opinions, etc. Prior to considering a commitment, candidates will often have questions you should be prepared to answer.

Examples of questions which may be asked include the following:

- *What is the role of the Council?*
- *What other individuals and groups are represented on the Council?*
- *How long is the term?*
- *How often will the Council meet?*
- *What are the statutory requirements and obligations?*
- *What is the time commitment?*
- *Is it a paid appointment?*
- *Will expenses be reimbursed?*

“Ensuring State Council members are educated on the importance of ICAOS toward community safety is critical to the Council’s motivation and acceptance of the role each member plays in successfully implementing policy. The training and assistance provided by the National Office was extremely helpful in making our members aware of the public safety issues the Interstate Compact faces. Don’t overlook this invaluable resource.”

Gary Tullock
Tennessee Commissioner

Council Activities

The Compact statutes in every state typically address the Council’s formal responsibilities; however the practical uses for a State Council are just as important.

Organization and leadership are the key components for creating and maintaining an effective, energized State Council. Although structure and make-up may vary across states, the purpose of State Councils is profoundly similar. The Council is essentially a communication and support mechanism to assist with developing statewide policy, acquiring critical resources and operating the Compact Office.

One of the first activities of a newly appointed Council should be to develop the Council’s mission statement as well as short and long term plans, goals and objectives. In the beginning the Council should establish either formal or informal meeting procedures. For example, how often will the Council meet, how will meeting notices be publicized, who will take meeting minutes, who can vote and how will votes be taken and recorded, etc.