

## Parent Scenario

Two children reside with their father and stepmother in North Carolina. Mother lives in South Carolina. DSS filed an abuse and neglect petition based on stepmother's physical violence towards the children, which occurred almost daily and involved her hitting the children with an open hand and fist and more serious incidents of choking, pulling out one child's hair, and hitting the other child with a cookie jar resulting in the cookie jar breaking. Father was uncooperative with and hostile toward DSS. Stepmother was charged with misdemeanor child abuse. Stepmother also used illegal substances and would often be impaired. Father allowed stepmother to care for his daughters despite his knowledge of his wife's substance use. The children were adjudicated abused and neglected. At disposition, the children were ordered to DSS custody, where both parents were awarded supervised visitation.

Mother seeks custody of her children. Evidence shows mother has completed construction on her home so that the children will have a bedroom; she has never been convicted of child abuse or neglect, and she has a clean and appropriate home. Her visits with the children have gone well. DSS asked for a home study from the South Carolina DSS. South Carolina did not recommend placement. Father continues to support stepmother and intends to have her return to his home once she has completed her jail sentence. He doesn't believe the children were abused.

1. Does the ICPC apply? Why or why not?
2. What will you order re: placement with mother?