



Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

VIRTUAL ABM 2021

SPIRIT OF THE COMPACT

What is meant by ‘Preserving the Spirit of the Compact’?

It is the act of going above and beyond the general call of duty to reach a conclusion or solution that best serves public safety. Preserving the ‘Spirit of the Compact’ is an essential part of advancing the Commission’s mission. Individuals recognized through a Spirit Sighting made a significant impact in a particular instance to reach a conclusion or solution that served public safety and the Interstate Compact. <http://www.interstatecompact.org/spirit-nominations>

SPIRIT SIGHTING RECIPIENTS

Isaak Avalos / New Mexico

In the COVID-19 pandemic, there are a lot of probation and parole officers, who only provide phone reporting without drug testing and personal interactions with individuals on supervision. I am very impressed with the supervision Isaak has provided on an Interstate Compact case I sent to his location from Kansas. My female probationer has no transportation from Chaparral to Las Cruces, but he helped her establish transportation to her daily treatment through the Partial Hospitalization Program at the Peak Behavioral Health Facility where she is also getting drug and alcohol tested. He has also met with her and has conducted drug tests in the office. When she has tested positive, he has effectively communicated those results to me and has provided an appropriate treatment response to her probation violations. He has remained in contact with her treatment provider and has plans to move her to inpatient treatment if she continues to use drugs.

I have worked in this field almost 30 years and this is the first time I have had such involved and thorough supervision through Interstate Compact supervision. I wish all officers did as much as Isaak does. He deserves to be recognized for going above and beyond in providing quality supervision for an out of state case.

Submitted by Beverly Hilbish (KS) on April 22, 2021.

Crystal Maples / Kansas

As a PO in Travis County, Texas, I monitor a case with a high-profile victim, and the offender is transferred to Kansas. On 1/20/21, we received communication from a third party indicating that the offender was sending a large number of alarming emails. This behavior occurred once before and it was determined to be the result of the offender's mental health medication lapsing, but not before the offender was extradited to Texas and spent a significant amount of time in jail. Upon receiving the recent emails about the offender, I sent a CAR requesting an update on his medication status and why. Ms. Maples responded immediately, and within 3 days was able to contact the mental health provider, have a home visit scheduled, and his medication reinstated. Each time I requested an update on the situation so that the Judge could be kept informed, she responded within 30 minutes.

Ms. Maples' willingness to go above and beyond and ensure the offender was receiving appropriate services both protected the community in which he resides and avoided the need to incarcerate him and the expense of extradition. I hope Ms. Maples can be recognized by her agency and Interstate Compact for her exceptional response and casework in this situation.

Submitted by Erin Morgan (TX) on February 1, 2021.

Samuel Flynn / Florida

Florida Sr. Supervisor Flynn received a phone call from an attorney, Joe Messineo, from Illinois concerning a case pending violation due to a violent crime conviction, misdemeanor battery. In the conversation, Sr. Supervisor Flynn took the time to advise Mr. Messineo on the rules of the Compact and assisted in directing Mr. Messineo to the Compact's website and pointed out specific resources available on the site to assist Mr. Messineo in educating himself on the requirements of the Compact including White Papers for retaking and liability. Sr. Supervisor Flynn also suggested possible accommodations that Florida may agree to for the offender to be instructed to return to Illinois but that such an agreement could only be made by both respective Compact Offices and not by a field supervisor.

Based on the information and advice given by Sr. Supervisor Flynn, Mr. Messineo did review the Compact's website and became more familiar with the requirements of the Compact. Mr. Messineo contacted Illinois DCA Holly Kassube and discussed the option of having the offender instructed to return to Illinois as opposed to being held and retaken under a warrant. Illinois DCA Kassube reached out to Florida DCA Tim Strickland and Florida agreed to having the offender instructed to return. Mr. Messineo also called Florida DCA Strickland and related that his interaction with Sr. Supervisor Flynn was very professional, courteous, and provided more assistance and understanding of the Compact process than Mr. Messineo had expected.

Sr. Supervisor Flynn could easily have dismissed Mr. Messineo's call and directed him to contact Illinois staff, but Sr. Supervisor Flynn took the time to assist Mr. Messineo with better understanding what was required under the Compact and what may be possible. Sr. Supervisor Flynn's actions demonstrated his commitment to fostering a better working relationship and understanding of the Compact with a stakeholder, a defense attorney, who was not from or

practicing in Florida and his example of his caring and knowledge of the Compact demonstrate his professionalism and humanity in how to communicate and assist others.

Submitted by DCA Tim Strickland (FL) & DCA Holly Kassube (IL) on October 1, 2020.

Bill West / Nevada

On September 16, 2020, New Mexico received a request from a local Probation and Parole office asking for the local District Attorney's assistance in the location of a Nevada probation officer. Compact Administrator Cohen submitted an email to DCA Bill West from Nevada asking for assistance in the location and information of this particular PO. DCA West obliged and tried to find the local PO without results. Doing what DCAs do best, he took to action and found out the PO was not from Nevada but from North Dakota and was able work with Commissioner Amy Vorachek of North Dakota, who was able to assist with the information to our local DA. This was an act that was out of side of the norm for Compact offices, but DCA West went above and beyond to assist New Mexico with providing information even when he found out the local PO was not in his local offices. New Mexico appreciates the effort and time spent to assist them.

Submitted by Compact Administrator Roberta Cohen (NM) on September 17, 2020.

Paige Lucas / West Virginia

Paige Lucas assisted North Carolina in granting reporting instructions for an offender that was released from prison homeless. The offender had submitted an address to go to West Virginia to live with his family prior to his release, but due to no cause of his own, the request was not submitted. Once this came to the North Carolina ISC Office's attention, West Virginia was contacted after 4:30 on a Friday before a holiday when most people had left the office for the day. Paige contacted DCA Kirk, and she agreed that the reporting instructions could be granted.

Submitted by DCA Betty Payton (NC) on September 8, 2020.

Turran Blazier / Indiana

Ms. Blazier has served in her role with the Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS) for 12 years. She continues to represent IOCS and the Justice Services Division in a professional manner when working with other states and outside agencies. She is extremely self-sufficient and ensures Compact issues are addressed immediately.

At the beginning of the year, Ms. Blazier identified an issue that needed addressed with a private community corrections agency. The agency covered two counties and was not working with those probation offices to properly transfer cases out of state. She arranged meetings with all the parties and worked with them to resolve the issues as the rules require. When the pandemic hit last March, she used her skills and knowledge to adapt to the situation. She continued to educate local offices on the requirements, and policies and procedures to ensure Indiana stayed in compliance even through the chaos of the pandemic and relocation of staff to work from home. Her ability to stay

organized ensured everything was addressed immediately to be in compliance with the mandatory timelines. She routinely checked on cases after hours to determine what needed to happen. She developed a process in her division to ensure Compact operated seamlessly and nothing was missed if someone is out of the office.

While we are still in the midst of the pandemic, Ms. Blazier continues to educate stakeholders on new requirements and looks for opportunities to train new and older local officers assigned to Compact for their department. In addition to being amazing at her primary job, she has also taken on staffing the Probation Officer Advisory Board in Indiana. Ms. Blazier took the opportunity to find out what the probation field needs, so she can address those issues as they come up. She is always willing to help and has an amazing ability to keep her sense of humor even when inundated with work and a pandemic.

Submitted by Angie Hensley-Langrel (IN) on August 26, 2020.

Brandon Watts / Texas

Texas DCA Brandon Watts is deserving of recognition for demonstrating Spirit of the Compact in the handling of a parole matter that happened prior to COVID-19. Nebraska Parole had a case in which the offender was being considered for medical parole and DCA Watts and his team worked with the Nebraska Parole Compact Office to approve expedited reporting instructions. However, due to the special circumstances of the case it was determined it would be best to have a decision regarding the Transfer Request prior to the hearing so Texas graciously completed its investigation in short order and the Transfer Request was approved. Although the offender was granted parole at the hearing before the offender could depart for the receiving state he passed away. Nebraska appreciates DCA Watts and his team going above and beyond to ensure a decision prior to the hearing to pave the way so the offender's transfer of supervision could occur. This is an example of the Compact at its best.

Submitted by DCA Parole Sally Reinhardt-Stewart (NE) on August 24, 2020.

Miriam Rabieh / New Mexico

Miriam Rabieh is a discharge planner for Sandoval County Detention Center. Although this is her day-to-day duties, Ms. Rabieh continued to stay in contact with New Mexico Interstate Compact office and provide information on an offender's status as he moved through his pretrial status in New Mexico to his return to Colorado. Ms. Rabieh does not work for NM Corrections Department but her diligence to her client ensured the offender was getting into treatment he needed upon release but continued to advise the New Mexico ISC office of the status of his availability, was going above and beyond what discharge planners do. It is amazing what happens with collaboration and communication with outside community members to ensure the safety of the community and rehabilitation of offenders.

Submitted by Compact Administrator Roberta Cohen (NM) on July 31, 2020.