

Active Efforts for ICWA

ACTIVE EFFORTS: Affirmative, thorough, and timely actions aimed at preserving/reuniting an Indian child with family.
INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA): Protects the interests of Indian children and promotes stability and security of tribes and families. Establishes minimum standards for removing and placing Indian children in homes that reflect their cultural values.



Comprehensive Assessment:

Conduct a thorough assessment of the circumstances of the Indian child's family to prevent removal or promote timely reunification.



Identify, Notify, and Invite:

Involve tribal representatives once the child's parents indicate tribal heritage and invite them to Family Team Decision Making, Shared Planning and Permanency Planning meetings, etc.



Family Search:

Thoroughly search for the child's extended family. Contact and consult with them to provide family structure and support for the family.



Culturally Appropriate Services:

Provide culturally appropriate family preservation strategies, encourage use of remedial services, and aid parents in accessing services to overcome barriers.



Frequent Visits/Family Time:

Support regular Family Time visits in natural settings.



Siblings:

Take steps to keep siblings together whenever possible. If separation occurs, establish visits and lines of communication.



Monitor:

Monitor progress and participation in services. Celebrate successes and respond appropriately to challenges.



Community Resources:

Identify and connect parents/families to community resources (housing, financial, transportation, mental health, substance use, peer support).



Alternative Services:

Consider creative ways to address the needs of the parents and family if optimal services are unavailable.



Post Reunification:

Provide post-reunification services and monitoring. Prioritize the best interest of the child.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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DCYF PUBLICATION TR_0010 (09-2023)