



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: 7/23/20
TO: Tribal Leaders
FROM: JooYeun Chang, Children's Services Agency, Director
SUBJECT: Public Notice – Relative Definition Statute Changes

MDHHS is providing you with public notice for consultation on potential changes to the definition of relative in state statute. The proposed changes to the definition of relative would align the definitions of relative in the Probate Code, Guardianship Assistance Act, and the Child Care Licensing Act. The updated definition of relative would include individuals with a strong positive emotional tie with the child, such as a godparent, neighbor, or family friend or an individual who is the adoptive parent of the child's biological sibling. The bills are currently being drafted and will be shared with the tribes as part of the consultation.

At your convenience please provide contact information for those wishing to participate in the workgroup scheduled for August 18, 2020 from 2:00 – 3:30 and any feedback or tribal consultation requests pertaining to any impact these requirements may have for tribal families/communities to Stacey Tadzerson, Native American Affairs at TadzersonS@michigan.gov. If you have any questions about the legislation, please contact Cathe Hoover at HooverC3@michigan.gov.