

NEED TO KNOW

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE?

Are you looking for answers?
We are here to help!



WHAT

You can access services tailored to your needs!

The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 created specific services for federally recognized American Indian families that may be helpful and are important for you to know.



WHERE

Indian outreach workers are located in 12 counties (Baraga, Chippewa, Delta, Gogebic, Isabella, Kent, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Van Buren and Wayne) in Michigan to assist American Indian families, DHS staff, and various organizations that service American Indian families.

For further information, please contact a nearby county Indian outreach worker, a local Indian Tribe/Organization, or Stacey Tadgerson, director of Native American Affairs at 517-241-7752.

For more resources and to see new policy published October 1, 2008, see our Web site at

www.michigan.gov/americanindians

or the Internal Online Manual.

ICWA is your right and your responsibility.



WHO

If you are an American Indian of any age.

If you have American Indian children.

If you represent a Tribe.

If you are a relative/extended family member of an American Indian child.

If you are a guardian, foster care parent, or adoptive parent of an American Indian child.

If you are a vendor or private agency that works with American Indian families.

If you are a DHS employee that provides services to American Indian families.



WHEN

A variety of services are available on request - as soon as you need them - or are directed to our office for services.



WHY

IT'S THE LAW! Congress recognized the unique status of American Indians and made a commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of American Indian children and families.



HOW

The Department of Human Services has specific child welfare policy (Native American Affairs Policy Manual Group) that outlines the rights of, and services for, American Indian* children and their parents, guardians, foster care parents, adoptive parents, Tribes, extended family (relatives) and those professionals that provide direct child welfare services to American Indian families in Michigan.

* "American Indian" includes state Historic Tribes and Canadian Indians.



Funded in part by the Michigan Court Improvement Program as administered by Child Welfare Services in the State Court Administrative Office. For more information on state court proceedings, see the State Court Administrative Office website at <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/CWS/CWS.htm>.



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