



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
CALIFORNIA

OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS
DIVISION

Center for Families, Children &
the Courts

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FACT SHEET

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Tribal/State Program Unit: Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Program

This Program assists courts and agencies to comply with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) by providing education, technical assistance, and resources statewide. This program is funded by the California Department of Social Services.

Education

Educational offerings include regional trainings and local collaborative workshops addressing the following topics:

- When ICWA applies
- Exclusive versus concurrent jurisdiction
- Determination of tribal membership or eligibility for membership
- Notice to tribes
- Tribal participation and intervention
- Active efforts, including culturally appropriate services
- Cultural case planning
- Placement preferences and permanency options including tribal customary adoption
- Qualified expert witnesses

Every effort will be made to tailor educational offerings to meet the needs identified by state court participants and tribal representatives.

Technical Assistance

Program staff assists courts and agencies by providing useful tools and identifying concrete steps that can be taken to improve compliance. Technical assistance is provided to courts in California and may include:

- Responding to requests by local courts in follow up to local collaborative workshops and court review of ICWA procedures and practices
- Reviewing local ICWA protocols

- Sharing successful strategies from around the state and the country
- Facilitating system meetings to identify areas for improving compliance
- Conducting courtesy ICWA file reviews

Clearinghouse of Resources

Program staff compiles and maintains up-to-date resources on ICWA. These include legal reference materials, Native American resources available in California, and an expert witness list.

Contact:

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Additional resources:

To obtain more information and materials related to the Indian Child Welfare Act, please visit www.courts.ca.gov/programs-tribal.htm