

Executive Summary

Course Title: Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Updates & Best Practices

Outline of Training:

The Indian Child Welfare Act Training provides an overview of the federal act and California Codes that provide specific protections for Indian Children who come in contact with the California child welfare system. The training will focus on the requirements and the importance of the Indian Child Welfare Act both historically as well as presently. The training will explore practical application of ICWA including collaboration with tribes and effective utilization of tribal resources. The course utilizes lecture, sample forms, small group interaction, and case scenarios to help participants integrate the information.

Target Audience: This training is appropriate for experienced workers. Experienced workers will be exposed to information regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act and Native American children and families in order to effectively work with this population.

Outcome Objectives for Participants:

1. To recognize the historic relationship between Indian children and Child Welfare Policy leading to the passage of ICWA and why ICWA is still relevant.
2. To learn methods of practical application of ICWA.
3. To utilize tribes and tribal representatives to identify resources needed to comply with ICWA.
4. To utilize the Judicial Council forms required by law in California.

Ways that Supervisors can support the Transfer of Learning from the classroom to the job...

BEFORE the training

1. Supervisor should review with the trainee all relevant DSS all county letters supporting ICWA compliance.
2. Supervisor should encourage ICWA compliance as required by law in case work and as best practice for ensuring permanency for Indian children.

AFTER the training

1. Supervisor should meet with the trainee to review culturally appropriate resources available in/near their county.
2. Supervisor should review all rules, forms, codes and other source material covered in the training and distribute any new or updated versions to all case workers.