

Executive Summary **Indian Child Welfare Act**

Course Description

The Indian Child Welfare Act Training provides an overview of the federal act that provides for Indian Children who come in contact with the 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 the most effective ways to interact with tribal resources as a strength based practice on behalf of Indian Children. The course utilizes lecturette, case studies, small group interaction, and case scenarios to help participants integrate the information.

Target Audience

This training is appropriate for new workers. New workers will be exposed to information regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act in order to begin effective case work with children and families.

Outcome Objectives

1. Recognize the historic relationship between Indian Children and Child Welfare policy leading to ICWA and identify the legal basis of ICWA as it relates to child welfare practice.
2. Recognize the potential impact of not identifying Indian/Native American children during the initial stages of the child welfare process and explain how ICWA considers the needs and rights of tribes, families, and children.
3. The trainee will be able to identify the basic provisions of ICWA and describe the potential negative consequences of noncompliance with ICWA.
4. Explain how tribes and/or tribal representative(s) can be used as a resource for decision-making throughout the life of a case when serving Indian/Native American children.

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

BEFORE the training

1. Supervisors should ask the trainee to discuss everything the trainee knows about ICWA.
2. Supervisors should ask the trainee to consider how Indian Children might have different resources from other children and how this could impact practice.

AFTER the training

1. Supervisors should ask the trainee to discuss the importance of the ICWA and why it came into law.
2. Supervisors should ask the trainee to identify the tribes most commonly represented in the county and to research this in order to have an accurate list of resources and identifiers directing the trainee to tribal lists.