

## **Guidelines for Providing Active Efforts to Indian Children**

The following are suggested best practice guidelines for providing active efforts:

1. A request to the Indian child's tribe to convene traditional and customary support and resolution actions or services.
2. Identification and participation of tribally designated representatives at the earliest point.
3. Consultation with extended family members to identify family structure and family support that may provide.
4. Frequent visitation in the Indian child's home and the homes of the child's extended family members.
5. Exhaustion of all tribally appropriate family preservation alternatives.
6. Identification and provision of information to the child's family concerning community resources, which may be able to offer housing, financial assistance, and/or transportation assistance.

CSW is to provide information and/or documentation to support the required findings regarding reasonable efforts and active efforts to prevent removal of the Indian child.

If new information is obtained on the child's Indian status, re-notice all appropriate parties. Complete the [ICWA 010A](#), Indian Child Inquire Attachment, and attach the new notices to the report.

- Refer to the [Notice of Hearing for Juvenile Court Proceedings](#) for detailed instructions.
- Include a summary of all contacts with tribal representatives, tribal membership status, and whether or not the tribe is federally recognized.
- Indicate whether the tribe(s) and/or the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Secretary of Interior have been notified that dependent child proceedings have been initiated on the child's behalf.
- Indicate whether the tribe, if known, has been notified of its right to intervene. If a tribe was notified, provide its name.

If the child is, or may be, an American Indian, clearly document in detail all active efforts made to locate an American Indian home for the child's placement. Such efforts include but are not limited to: using the available resources of the Indian child's extended family, tribe, other Indian social service agencies, and/or individual Indian caregiver services providers.

- If there are appropriate American Indian placement alternatives for the child, enter justification for not placing the child with an Indian caregiver.

- Summarize the contacts made with the tribal representative including tribal membership status and whether the tribe is federally recognized.
- Indicate whether the tribe(s) and/or the BIA and the Secretary of Interior have been notified that dependent child proceedings have been initiated on the child's behalf.
- Indicate whether the tribe, if known, has been notified of its right to intervene.
  - If a tribe was notified, provide its name. Notify the tribe(s) if it was not previously done.
  - Refer to the [Notice of Hearing for Juvenile Court Proceedings](#) for detailed instructions.

If the child is not in a placement that meets ICWA preferences, document what efforts were made to find such a placement. If there are appropriate non-American Indian placement alternatives for the child, enter justification for not placing with an Indian caregiver. Include dates of all actions taken.

At the first court appearance, the court will order for the parent to complete the [ICWA-020](#), Parental Notification of Indian Status.

- If the parent is not present at the first court appearance, the court will order for DCFS to use reasonable diligence to locate the parent and to inform him/her that the court has ordered the parent to complete the ICWA-020.
- Once the parent(s) is located, have the parent complete the ICWA-020 and submit it as an attachment with the court report.

Attach any correspondence received from the tribe(s) and/or BIA to the report.

- If the child's Indian Child Welfare Act status is not resolved, contact the County Counsel listed on the minute order for further instructions and information on how to proceed.

If the child does not come under the provisions of ICWA or is not an American Indian child from a federally recognized tribe, indicate, if applicable, the date the court made that finding.