



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 1978 (ICWA)

“.....to protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families by the establishment of minimum Federal standards for the removal of Indian children from their families and the placement of such children in foster or adoptive homes which will reflect the unique values of Indian culture, and by providing for assistance to Indian tribes in the operation of child and family service programs.”

*The mission of the Children's Division is to partner with families, communities, government to protect children from abuse and neglect to assure **safety, permanency and well being** for Missouri's children.*

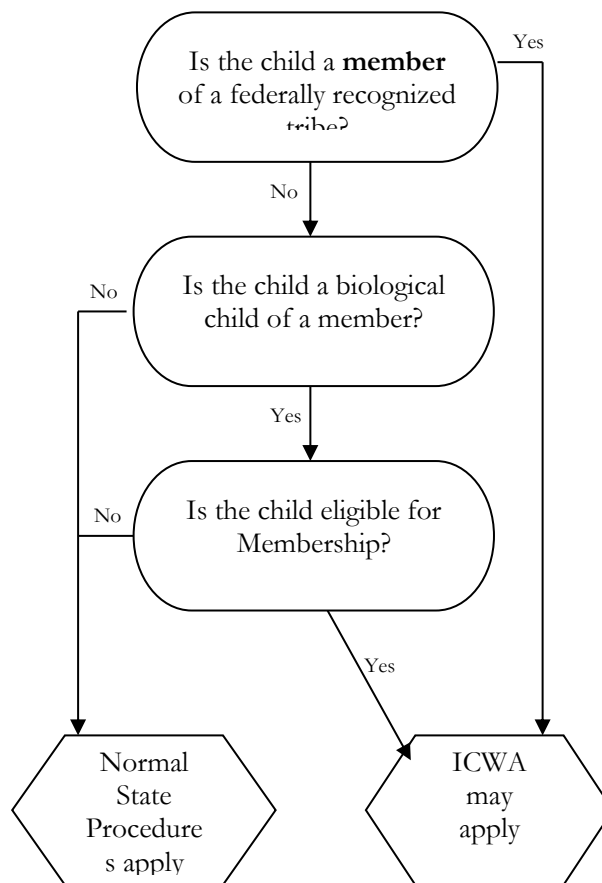


 Missouri Department of
SOCIAL SERVICES
Your Potential. Our Support.

U.S. Congressional passage of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978 sets out requirements and procedures regarding Indian children including the following:

- ◆ Protective custody
- ◆ Out-of-home care placements
- ◆ Pre-adoptive and adoptive placements
- ◆ Voluntary relinquishments
- ◆ Actions to terminate parental rights
- ◆ Actions related to status offenses

Will the ICWA Apply?



If you believe that ICWA applies to your family or if you have questions, please contact your case manager or local Children's Division Office.

Services may be provided:

- ◆ Jointly and in a responsive manner to the child and family's Indian heritage and culture.
- ◆ Indian social services may provide all the services needed by the child and family.

Where Indian child welfare services are available, either through the tribe or an Indian center, Division staff is responsible for cooperating and coordinating all out-of-home care services with these social service resources.