

Online Introduction to ICWA Course

National Indian Child Welfare Association



About Introduction to ICWA

Introduction to ICWA, an online course covering the Indian Child Welfare Act, is one of the most accessible ways to train child welfare staff working with Native youth and families in ICWA. ICWA, a federal law enacted in 1978, carries with it significant implications for individuals working in the field of Indian child welfare. With the newly published guidelines and regulations passed in 2016, all child welfare staff hold a responsibility to be educated in ICWA.

In less than five hours, individuals can become certified in the basics of ICWA and be prepared to advocate for this important law which protects Native children and preserves culture. The course can be completed on a timeline customizable to the learner and to the group.

This course will take you through the opening steps from the moment you realize you are working with a youth who may be Native. Being proficient in ICWA will ensure you can follow what a coalition of 18 national child advocacy organizations have labeled the gold standard in child welfare practice.



I just finished the online course, powerful; full of critical information regarding the law and importance of reunification with tribal communities. I highly suggest taking the course, if you can!

-State social worker



Even with 20 years in the field of social work and child welfare, there were additional perspectives and practice scenarios that I was able to learn from.

*-State of Ohio,
current online course group
participant*

Who should take this course?

Anyone (individual or group) involved in the out-of-home placement of American Indian/Alaska Native children!

- Social workers from tribal social service agencies
- State and county social workers
- Staff social workers
- Supervisors
- Training personnel
- Social work professors, educators, and students

Why should I enroll my staff?

- Special group (25+) discounts and perks are available
- Each learner receives 4.5 Continuing Education Units accredited by the National Association of Social Workers
- Informed practitioners help prevent higher rates of disproportionality
- Effective way to support new staff in onboarding
- Support all staff in professional development

NICWA's Online Introduction to ICWA Course

Qualified Expert Witnesses



The termination of parental rights by a state court requires supporting testimony from a qualified expert witness (QEW).

The QEW must be qualified:

- To testify whether the parent or Indian custodian's custody of the child will result in serious emotional or physical damage
- To speak about the prevailing social and cultural standards of the Indian child's tribe

Testimony of a QEW is required to support the court's TPR decision, AND it must be part of the evidence presented to meet the required standard of proof.

What topics are covered?

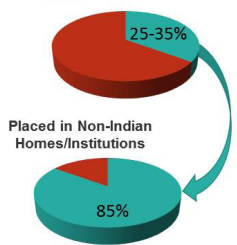
- ICWA application
- Notice
- Foster care
- Voluntary and involuntary placements
- Termination of parental rights
- Adoption
- Active efforts
- Qualified Expert Witnesses
- Updated 2016 Regulations
- A broad resource section with downloadable content

How can I customize this to my group?

- Set the administrator as the lead in managing each group learner's success
- View course progress and test results, and add new learners
- Create subgroups to monitor progress
- Access customized reporting and administrator functions

History of American Indian and Alaska Native Child Removal and Family Disruption

Indian Children Removed



The federal government carried out campaigns seeking to eradicate tribal culture:

- Forcibly removing children from their families
- Placing children in military-style boarding schools hundreds of miles from their families
- Attempting to assimilate children into Anglo culture by using harsh discipline and emotional abuse

What does the research say?

Students are more engaged with their learning when they have the opportunity to set their own pace while still complying with deadlines.

With online learning, knowledge is always available to the student and they can learn the subject at their own pace and in comfortable settings. Online learning ensures that fast learners can complete the course sooner and this enhances productivity!

What are others saying?

"The lifelike case studies helped me apply the knowledge to real life situations."

– Course participant

"I came away from the training having learned the nuts and bolts and the way that ICWA actually changes traditional child welfare practices (in practice)!"

– Course participant



Temporary Emergency Jurisdiction



State Court

Temporary emergency jurisdiction when the child is at risk of imminent physical damage or harm (OFF tribal lands)



Tribal Court

Jurisdiction over child custody proceedings for all children who are domiciled ON tribal lands and on tribal lands at the time of a child abuse or neglect incident

How much does it cost?

Number of Users	Cost per User	Administration Fee
0-24	\$100	\$100
25-49	\$90	\$150
50-74	\$80	\$200
75+	Contact NICWA	Contact NICWA

To register your group, contact NICWA Director of Events and Training, Lauren Shapiro, at lauren@nicwa.org or call (503) 222-4044.

Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)



ASFA contains several federal requirements for states and tribes that operate the Title IV-B and Title IV-E programs under the Social Security Act.

- States and tribes have often added these federal law requirements into their own laws
- Complicated depending on what federal funds are being used to support services
- ASFA does not modify or eliminate the need to meet ICWA requirements in child custody proceedings

The law was enacted in response to concerns that children in foster care are there for overly long periods of time or are shuffled from home to home.



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

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