

WAC 110-110-0030 Foster care for Indian children—Services.

Documented efforts must be made to avoid separating the Indian child from the child's parents, relatives, tribe, or cultural heritage. Consequently:

(1) When a family identifies Indian ancestry under the federal and state Indian child welfare acts, the DCYF caseworker has fifteen calendar days, or ten business days, from the date of identification to complete a family ancestry chart and begin the membership inquiry process. A copy of the family ancestry chart will be retained in the child's most current case file volume.

(2) The department staff will contact all identified federally recognized tribes in the case of Indian children being placed in foster care by the department or for whom the department has supervisory responsibility.

(3) If requested by a federally recognized tribe, or if a federally recognized tribe is unavailable the local Indian child welfare advisory committees (LICWAC) as defined under WAC 110-110-0060 will serve as resource persons for the purposes of cooperative planning and aid in placement.

(4) The resources of the tribal government, the Indian community, and the department must be used to locate the child's parents and relatives to assist in locating possible placement resources, and to assist in the development of a plan to overcome the problem that brought the child to the attention of the authorities, or the department, or both the authorities and the department.

(5) In planning foster care placements for Indian children, the department will follow the federal and state Indian child welfare acts with regard to placement preference. The case record must document the reasons and circumstances of casework decisions and consideration in those regards.

(6) The department, in partnership with federally recognized tribes and its contracted agencies, will develop training for staff and caregivers designed to meet the needs of Indian children and their families. The department may also partner with urban Indian organizations, LICWAC, national, state and local Indian child welfare organizations, and Native American/Alaskan Native consultants.

(7) The department must make diligent and ongoing efforts to recruit facilities and/or homes particularly capable of meeting the needs of Indian children.

[Statutory Authority: 2017 c 6. WSR 20-04-019, § 110-110-0030, filed 1/27/20, effective 2/27/20. WSR 18-14-078, recodified as § 110-110-0030, filed 6/29/18, effective 7/1/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, chapter 13.38 RCW, and 25 U.S.C. chapter 21. WSR 16-13-151, § 388-70-093, filed 6/22/16, effective 7/23/16; Order 1167, § 388-70-093, filed 10/27/76.]