



ND ICWA Champion Nomination

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Dear ND ICWA Champion Nominator:

The ND ICWA Champion Award is a venture intended to honor those who go above and beyond when serving Native American children and families. The Indian Child Welfare Act requires additional attention be paid to the services provided to Native American families. The extra protections afforded to Native American children and families require compassion and diligence. Understanding the foundation of the law and applying as intended are essential for tribal family health and safety. All families deserve empathy, caring attitudes and attentive work. Tribal communities unfortunately do not have the resources to serve all their tribal members in the way tribal nations wish they could, so empathic and diligent service to tribal families is greatly appreciated. The Native American Training Institute on behalf of the four North Dakota tribes would like to honor individuals who provide superior service to Native American children and families who have entered the child welfare system.

The ND ICWA Champion nominee must:

1. Demonstrate an unwavering desire to provide strong advocacy to Native American families in upholding the Letter of the law, but more importantly the Spirit of the Indian Child Welfare Act.
2. Work diligently to create trusting relationships with the families served and the entities they collaborate within these services – building trust is the first Active Effort.
3. Be diligent in efforts to provide culturally responsive and meaningful services to families.
4. Attend to the Spirit of the law by working closely with all agency partners to provide services that are likely to lead to long term change for the children and families they serve.

Letter(s) of support and/or documentation to support the nomination is encouraged to be included. Individuals who work within the North Dakota Child Welfare system (County, Regional, State, Court, GAL, etc.) can be nominated. The last day to submit nominations is May 1st. Presentation of the ND ICWA Champion Award will occur at the Summer Children and Family Services Conference in Bismarck, ND: see conference agenda for date and time. All nominees will be mentioned and the Awardee will receive a star quilt and a personalized plaque, presented by NATI on behalf of the four North Dakota Tribes, in recognition of their superior service in implementing the Letter and the **Spirit** of the Indian Child Welfare Act. We look forward to reviewing the nominations, we may reach out to you for more information and you will be notified in advance if your nominee is selected as this year's North Dakota ICWA Champion. Please feel free to contact NATI if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Stephanie DeCoteau – Executive Director NATI

