



Working with the Tribe(s) & ICWA Family Preservationist (IFP)



QUICK GUIDE FOR CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONALS

1 WHAT IS AN IFP?



An ICWA Family Preservationist (IFP) is a Tribally appointed representative who partners with child welfare professionals to support accurate ICWA implementation, active efforts, cultural connection, family engagement, preferred placement, and permanency planning.

2 SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



ICWA implementation is a shared responsibility between Tribal Nations and state child welfare systems.

- Collaborate early
- Communicate openly
- Support child safety
- Preserve family connection
- Honor Tribal sovereignty

3 WHEN TO INVOLVE THE TRIBE(S)/IFP

- ✓ Reason to believe ICWA may apply
- ✓ Present or impending danger
- ✓ Placement consideration
- ✓ Case planning
- ✓ Permanency discussions
- ✓ Cultural guidance needed



4 POLICY REMINDER



Eligible ICWA cases must be referred as soon as possible and no later than **2 calendar days**.



No Release of Information (ROI) is required when an ICWA Inquiry is submitted.



Tribal Nations have an independent interest in their Tribal children and families.

5 WORKER RESPONSIBILITIES

- ✓ Submit ICWA Inquiry
- ✓ Maintain communication
- ✓ Share relevant information
- ✓ Invite Tribe(s)/IFPs to meetings
- ✓ Collaborate on active efforts

6 HOW IFPs HELP

- Cultural guidance
- Family engagement
- Relative connections
- ICWA Implementation
- Preferred placement support

7 ROLE BOUNDARIES



IFPs do NOT

- ✗ Conduct investigations
- ✗ Make placement decisions
- ✗ Replace case management
- ✗ Serve as legal counsel



Stronger together.
Collaborating early and often helps children and families thrive.



ICWA is both a legal framework and a shared commitment to protecting children, preserving families, and honoring Tribal sovereignty through collaborative partnership.

