



Indian Child Welfare Summit

Presented by:

A Tribal Enterprise of:



March 2 - 4, 2016
Pearl River Resort & Casino ~ Choctaw, MS

AGENDA

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

- 8:00 AM** **Registration**
- 8:30 AM** **Welcome and Overview by Chairman Virgil Oyos**
- 9:00 AM** **“We Shall Remain”**
Introductory activity with small-group sessions.
- 9:30 AM** **The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978**
The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a federal law that seeks to keep American Indian children with American Indian families, but is it really working? We will review the actual Act and its intent. The discussion will focus on how the Act has been interpreted in State, District and Federal courts since 1978.
- 10:15 AM** **Break**
- 10:30 AM** **Dissecting the Conflict**
Congressional findings state that there is no resource more vital to the continued existence to the integrity of Indian tribes than their children and that the United States has a direct interest, as trustee, in protecting Indian children who are members of or are eligible for membership in an Indian tribe.
When an Indian Child is placed in any out of home placement, voluntary or involuntary, by any state, county, city or government, conflict will arise. This session is dissect the beginning stages of Child Placement and the start of Indian Child Welfare and how to determine the best interest for that child.
- NOON** **Lunch**
- 1:00 PM** **Mechanics of the Act ~ Overview of Actions**
Tribal Law advocates will discuss the current status of the Act and how current court cases around the country have been reviewed, handled and eroded the Act in the past five years. We will also look at the recent ruling for the Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians court case and how that ruling was decided.
- 4:30 PM** **Session Ends**
- 5:00 PM** **Networking Reception (hors d'œuvre provided)**

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Thursday, March 3, 2016

- 8:30 AM** **Education and Reform of the Act ~ BIA Regulations**
The BIA has some new regulations and rules to be followed for ICWA. Hear how these rules affect your tribe. How can tribes play a key role in the education of case workers, lawyers and the court system on their cultural and sovereign rights?
- 10:15 AM** **Break**
- 10:30 AM** **Discussion of NEW ICWA Regulations**
Now that we have laid out the new regulations, we will take time to discuss and look at ways to work with the regulations and help state and county courts understand those regulations.
- NOON** **Lunch**
- 1:00 PM** **Traditional Dispute Resolution/Family Conferencing as a Best Practice for ICWA**
This session will discuss the traditional ways of handling ICA and the merits of Family Conferencing to help make decisions in the best interest of the child.
- 2:30 PM** **Break**
- 3:00 PM** **Introduction to Peacemaking**
Peacemaking is another alternative for resolving ICWA issues. This afternoon we will start the discussion first by describing how peacemaking works and how it works for sovereign nations.
- 4:30 PM** **Session Ends**

Friday, March 4, 2016

- 8:30 AM** **Implementing the Peacemaking Process**
Peacemaking, or traditional dispute resolutions, can offer a form of best practice when considering the circles of care required to ensure a child's well-being over the course of their upbringing, as well as the various parties with a potential interest in the child's care and future. Even if a tribally specific model is not available, some version can be implemented as best practice. This session will look at the how to implement the peacemaking process and what alternative process would work for your tribe.
- 9:30 AM** **Break**
- 9:45 AM** **Implementing the Peacemaking Process Cont'd.**
We will continue the discussion as well as some experiential learning exercises to help show the power of traditional systems to create a more comprehensive circle of care for the child.
- 12:30 PM** **Lunch**
- 1:00 PM** **Strategizing and Next Steps**
This afternoon we will work on action plans to take back to your organization for ICWA implementation.

Conference Ends