



If you are an Indian person there are laws and policies that protect you and recognize tribal sovereignty. The preservation of Indian families and tribes is provided by:

1. The federal Indian Child Welfare Act (1978)
2. The Washington State Indian Child Welfare Act (2011)
3. Juvenile Court Act RCW 13.34
4. Washington Administrative Code: WAC 110-110



“
We are a sovereign people, we value our different ways, learned from our grandparents, whose ceremonies we follow, whose languages we speak, whose customs we honor. You will know our separate identities by the style of our life.
 ”

-Author Unknown

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Local Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committee (LICWAC)



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



Why We Exist

The Local Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committee (LICWAC) was initiated during the early 1970s by a grassroots movement led by tribal members. These individuals voiced alarm about the high rate of removal of Indian children from their families and communities.

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is grateful that tribes provided the impetus to create LICWAC teams. It is through this government-to-government partnership that the state and tribes can most effectively work toward repairing historical trauma and protect tribal and familial connections for Indian children and their families.

LICWAC teams are unique to Washington state. In 1976, LICWAC requirements were codified into Washington Administrative Code, two years prior to the passage of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act.

What We Do

The LICWACs serve to advise DCYF on case planning and services for Indian children and their families when the child or family's Tribe, Band, or Canadian First Nations is unavailable or there are pending Native Ancestry Inquiry Requests. LICWAC recommendations are included in the court report as an attachment for those cases in the court system.

Confidentiality (Privacy)

DCYF staff and Local Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committee members must keep all information confidential and private, as required by law.

Who We Are

LICWAC members are representatives designated by tribal governments and Urban Indian Organizations. LICWAC members are approved by the DCYF Regional Administrator. Members must formally register as volunteers of DCYF.

Accessing Resources:

LICWAC partners with DCYF social workers to ensure that families are able to access services that they are eligible for and entitled to. Efforts are made to use all relevant tribal and/or urban Indian services available including:

- Membership Inquiry with federally recognized tribes
- Health and Social Services
- Education
- Counseling

Engaging Tribes and Families:

DCYF strives to provide a high level of services. The state of Washington recognizes the unique culture and sovereignty of federally recognized tribes. State and federal laws impose specific requirements when engaging with a case involving an Indian Child.

As a parent, Indian custodian, or caregiver, you are also encouraged to participate at every level of case planning for your child. This includes being invited to all meetings, appointments, and court hearings pertaining to your child's well-being.

DCYF Office of Tribal Relations Regional Consultants:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

LICWAC Liaison/Facilitator:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

