

TRIBAL RELATIONS & ICW COURTS

Child Dependency Courts

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 1978

Federal law that governs the removal and out-of-home placement of American Indian children. ICWA provides guidance to states regarding the handling of child abuse and neglect and adoption cases involving Native children and sets minimum standards for the handling of these cases.



WASHINGTON INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT

The Washington Indian Child Welfare Act (WICWA) codifies the federal Indian Child Welfare Act into state statutes. WICWA protects the best interests of Indian children while promoting stability and security of Indian tribes and families.

[Chapter 13.38 RCW](#)

RECENT WA SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

[In Re Matter of Dependency of G.J.A., 197 Wn.2d 868, 489 P.3d 631 \(2021\).](#)

[In Re Matter of Dependency of Z.J.G., 196 Wn.2d 175, 471 P.3d 853 \(2020\)](#)

DOES ICWA WORK?

When ICWA is applied **properly**, it leads to:

- Increased reunification rates
- Higher rates of kinship placement
- Lower rates of congregate care
- Lower rates of “aging out” of care

ICWA is vitally important to Native children and families

RESOURCES

[WA Guide to Reasonable & Active Efforts](#)

[WA Reason to Know Flowchart](#)

[Lummi Child Welfare Comprehensive Guide to Active Efforts](#)

ICW COURTS

Dedicated docket of child welfare hearings involving Indian children as confirmed or presumed by the definitions outlined in the ICWA and WICWA.

ICW Courts in WA



TOOLS FOR WORKING WITH TRIBES

TRIBAL COURT PODCAST SERIES

Child Welfare Information Gateway

INDIGENOUS LAND MAP

<https://native-land.ca/>

MY TRIBAL AREA

<https://www.census.gov/tribal/>



For questions please contact Family & Youth Justice Programs