

# INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA)

## 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 APPELLATE COURT OPINIONS

In the Matter of the Dependency of C.J.J.I.

In the Matter of the Dependency of J.S.P & J.J.P.

In the Matter of the Dependency of S.S.B.

### 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

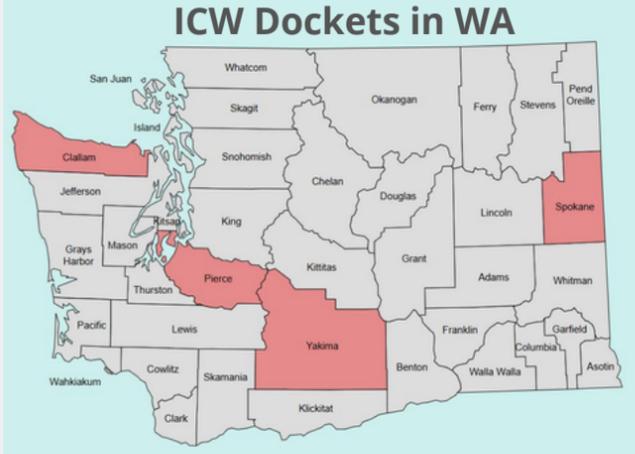
WA Guide to Reasonable & Active Efforts

WA Reason to Know Flowchart

Lummi Child Welfare Comprehensive Guide to Active Efforts

## ICW DOCKETS

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



## TOOLS FOR WORKING WITH TRIBES

### DCYF POLICY- QUALIFIED EXPERT WITNESSES

Department of Children, Youth, & Families

### INDIGENOUS LAND MAP

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

### MY TRIBAL AREA

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



For questions please contact Laura Vogel at [laura.vogel@courts.wa.gov](mailto:laura.vogel@courts.wa.gov)