

Update on the new *Indian Child Welfare Act Resource Guide: Facilitating Compliance With the Law*

Mark Tilden, Staff Attorney
David Selden, Law Librarian
Native American Rights Fund
Boulder, Colorado

1

About the guide:

- Background on the need for a guide
- Funding for the guide
- Consultants
- Gather additional advice on the content and layout from the audience
- Target audience
- Publication and distribution of the guide
- Guide updates

2

Goals of the guide:

1. To foster compliance with the letter and spirit of the Indian Child Welfare Act by developing a resource guide designed to educate tribal courts, tribal attorneys, and tribal ICWA program staff or tribal social services staff involved in state court child custody proceedings about the ICWA

3

2. To improve the delivery of tribal child protection services
3. To improve the ability of tribal judicial court systems to exercise their federal rights under the ICWA

4

4. To improve the ability of tribes to secure cross-recognition judgments, final orders, and laws as between tribal, state, and federal justice systems

5

Proposed contents:

- Introduction
- Background on the Indian Child Welfare Act
- Frequently asked questions and responses
- Resources

6

Resources:

- Appendices providing a compendium of various resources such as:
- Federal law, legislative history and Bureau of Indian Affairs guidelines
- Laws related to the Indian Child Welfare Act
- State law and regulations

7

- Bibliography
- Directories of contacts
- Forms to be used in ICWA proceedings
- Tribal law

8

Web site version -- differences and enhancements:

- More full-text resources
- Cross-linking within the guide and to outside sites
- Version can be downloaded or printed from web site
- Printable updates for loose-leaf binder

9

Web site version -- where to find:

- Native American Rights Fund (NARF) www.narf.org (expanded web version & downloadable print version)
- National Tribal Justice Resource Center (NTJRC) www.ntjrc.org (access via link to NARF)
- National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) www.nicwa.org (access via link to NARF)

10

Audience feedback:

- Frequently asked questions
- Resources needed in the appendices
- Marketing and distribution of the *Guide*
- How to provide feedback after today's presentation

11

Contact Information:

David Selden
NARF, 1522 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80302
303-447-8760 (p), 303-443-7776 (f)
dselden@narf.org

12