The Heart

DUBLIC EDUCATION STORVTELLING SERIES

For 37 years, the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) has been a critical protection for American Indian and Alaska Native children and their families who have often been mistreated and taken advantage of in state child welfare systems, many times by private adoption interests. Basic protections that all children and families in this nation receive, like having the support of your extended family and being placed in a home with a fit and willing relative, unfortunately are being threatened by a small number of self-interested private adoption advocates and their allies intent on eliminating basic rights and protections for Native people.

Recognizing the need for ICWA public education materials that can be distributed widely throughout social media channels and educational evnironments, the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) partnered with The Poarch Band of Creek Indians, award-winning Producer/Director Karen Odyniec and Producer Milo Daemgen to produce four short-form digital stories that are informative and incredibly moving.

The multi-part digital storytelling series, The Heart of ICWA, features family members, tribal leaders, adult adoptees, and youth that were in foster care sharing their "lived experience" of how ICWA has impacted their lives; it counters the negative stereotypes and blatantly racist images of Indian people and communities that oponents of ICWA have felt obliged to use in their messaging. These public education videos present Native families sharing their personal stories of family upheaval, perseverance, healing, and ultimately, resilience in the face of threats to their well-being. Watch and listen as you hear firsthand what happens when the basic protections of ICWA are followed and the devastating consequences when families and children are deprived of these basic rights.





Native families love our children deeply and want them to grow up happy, safe, and surrounded by love.

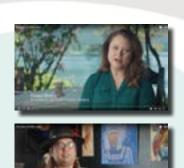


ICWA is not an antiquated law.
ICWA is very much needed today to
help vulnerable Native children and
disempowered Native families.



Leading child and family advocacy organizations call ICWA the "gold standard" in child welfare policy and practice because it keeps children with their relatives whenever possible.











JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Follow the NICWA on Facebook and Twitter to find, like, and share *The Heart of ICWA* videos and other ICWA-related content using the #TheHeartofICWA.

Use **The Heart of ICWA** videos in educational environments such as in-person and online courses on social work with American Indian children and families as wekk as meetings with policymakers to share why the protections of ICWA are important.

Tell your friends and family about **The Heart of ICWA** videos and why you believe ICWA is a law that helps keep families together.

Send this flyer about *The Heart of ICWA* videos to organizations, networks, and other people you think should hear the message that Native children and families should stay together.

Contact your legislators to share **The Heart of ICWA** videos and NICWA's other educational publications.

Direct people who want to know more to NICWA info@nicwa.org | (503) 222-4044 | www.nicwa.org

RESOURCESCLICKABLE LINKS

The National Indian Child Welfare
Association (NICWA)
www.nicwa.org

Native American Journalism Association's (NAJA) Reccommendations for Reporting on the Indian Child Welfare Act

www.naja.com

Native American Rights Fund's (NARF)
ICWA Info Page
www.icwa.narf.org

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) ICWA Current Events & News Page www.indianaffairs.gov

