

# The Heart OF ICWA

## PUBLIC EDUCATION STORYTELLING 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 environments, 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 opponents 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.

**#THEHEARTOFICWA**



**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.**





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## JOIN THE MOVEMENT

CLICKABLE LINKS

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 well 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](mailto:info@nicwa.org) | (503) 222-4044 | [www.nicwa.org](http://www.nicwa.org)

## RESOURCES

CLICKABLE LINKS

**The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)**  
[www.nicwa.org](http://www.nicwa.org)

**Native American Journalism Association's (NAJA) Recommendations for Reporting on the Indian Child Welfare Act**  
[www.naja.com](http://www.naja.com)

**Native American Rights Fund's (NARF) ICWA Info Page**  
[www.icwa.narf.org](http://www.icwa.narf.org)

**Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) ICWA Current Events & News Page**  
[www.indianaffairs.gov](http://www.indianaffairs.gov)

# #THEHEARTOFICWA