

PROTECTING NATIVE FAMILIES

RICHARD BLAKE, CHIEF JUDGE

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBAL COURT/REDDING
RANCHERIA, TOLOWA DEE-NI NATION
JUVENILE HEALING TO WELLNESS

HOOPA TRIBAL MEMBER



REASONS TO PROTECT TRIBAL FAMILIES?

TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF TRIBAL CULTURES AND TRADITIONS, PASSED ON FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IS
PASSED FROM ELDERS TO
OUR YOUTH



MAINTAINING THE CULTURAL
RELATIONSHIPS WITH NATIVE
CHILDREN



KEEPING OUR CHILDREN IN
THEIR COMMUNITIES WITH
EXPOSURE TO CULTURE



MAINTAINING CULTURES
THAT HAVE BEEN KEPT
ALIVE FOR CENTURIES

HISTORICAL TRAUMA

As defined by Stanford University

“Historical trauma is the accumulative emotional and psychological pain over an individual’s lifespan and across generations as the result of massive group trauma (Yellow-Horse Brave Heart, 1995). Historical trauma can have varied effects on individuals and populations that may include: unsettled trauma or grief, depression, high mortality, increase of alcohol abuse, child abuse and domestic violence.”

Indian Termination Policy 1940-1960

Termination of tribal status

Indian Relocation Act of 1956 (aka PL959)

Adult Vocational Training Program

American Indian Boarding School 1819-1969

Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978

Taking back what is ours!

Establishing governments and
resources to protect our children

Sovereign Governments:

“A federal government derives its sovereign power from the people-its voting citizens. A state government derives its sovereign power from the federal government. A tribal government derives its sovereign power from the people and from its connection to ancestral territory.”

574 Federally Recognized American Indian & Alaska Native Tribes and Villages

Approximately 400 of the 574 Federally Recognized American Indian & Alaska Native Villages have tribal justice systems.

Most of the 574 Federally Recognized AI & AN tribes and villages operated child welfare systems to address control over their children.

Development of joint jurisdiction collaboratives;
courts and inter-departmental ventures

Joint Jurisdiction Courts



Hoopa Valley Tribe

Family Wellness Court/ Adult
Wellness Court



Yurok Tribe

Family Wellness/Adult
Wellness/Juvenile Wellness



Shingle Springs Band

Family Wellness



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe 2006

Family Wellness

Keeping Our Children Safe

Protecting Custom, Tradition and Families in Tribes



Developing intergovernmental relationships between the tribes, county and state agencies.

Providing resources for membership to maintain tribal families

Continuing to support ICWA, as the gold standard for native children

Educating state and federal court benches on the importance of maintaining tribal families

Keeping dependency cases within the tribal courts

If out of home placement is necessary, supporting Tribal Customary Adoption

Modifying parental rights, not complete termination of parental rights

Tribal Court/ Social Services maintaining contact with our tribal member children

Thank You...

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