



Welcome to the Tribal Consultation Listening Session



Workshop Description:

This workshop is a listening session with the intent to gather input about how to develop a formal “government-to-government” tribal consultation process. In 2011 Governor Jerry Brown issued Executive Order B-10-11, which declares that “every state agency and department shall encourage communication and consultation with California Indian Tribes...to provide meaningful input into the development of legislation, regulations, rules, and policies on matters that may affect tribal communities.”

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) values its relationships with tribal nations, and remains committed to improving communication and consultation. Therefore, it is CDSS’ desire to improve and broaden its outreach and engagement with California tribes, and to remain focused and supportive of the tasks and issues identified by the Statewide Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Workgroup.

The ICWA Workgroup is comprised of tribal ICWA workers/advocates, county child welfare and probation representatives, CDSS and other state department staff, and was established to collaborate with tribes on child welfare issues. As recommended by the ICWA Workgroup, the following structure is proposed for this listening session.

In this listening session, audience members will have the opportunity to share their thoughts on what they want “government-to-government” consultation to be as it pertains to the tribal community and the California Department of Social Services on child welfare services. CDSS, the Yurok Tribe, and Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, are co-hosting this session to be facilitated by Kathy Deserly, National Resource Center for Tribes.

This session is the beginning step towards establishing a formal consultation process with tribal nations regarding significant child welfare issues. Your participation is instrumental in strengthening our state-to-tribal government relationship. We welcome you and your valuable insight and feedback to ensure a formal consultation process be adequately developed with the goal of serving and protecting Native American children and families in child welfare.

Note: Please limit your comments to the topic of government-to-government consultation. This will not be an opportunity to discuss child welfare case issues. However, written comments and concerns may be submitted for CDSS follow-up.

For further questions or comments, you may contact icwa@dss.ca.gov
or call (916) 651-6160.

