



KALISPEL TRIBAL COURT

2/3/2011

Division of Child Support (DCS) – Definition of a Tribal Court Case

The Division of Child Support (DCS) has clarified the definition of a “Tribal Case” to include all Non-Custodial Parents (NCP’s) who are members of a federally- recognized Indian Tribe in Washington State.

The prior “Tribal Case” definition only included NCP’s who are members of Tribes in WA State and *who live on or near a reservation*. The new definition allows DCS Tribal Liaisons to manage ALL cases involving a NCP who is a member of a federally-recognized WA Tribe, including those where the NCP lives off-reservation.

This change will provide more statewide consistency and will hopefully result in improved culturally-relevant services to tribal members.

Here is the complete definition of a DCS Tribal case:

1. A tribal case includes, at the minimum, one or more of the following:
 - a. A noncustodial parent (NCP) who is a member of a federally recognized Washington tribe.
 - b. An NCP who is employed by the tribe, a tribal enterprise, or an Indian owned business located on a reservation or trust land.
 - c. A party included under a cooperative child support process or agreement.
 - d. A party who receives services from a Tribal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program or a federally-funded Tribal Child Support program in Washington State.

2. A case involving other tribal issues.

For example: A local field office may also include a case:

- a. Associated with a Tribal TANF case,
- b. involving any NCP living on a reservation
- c. Involving a party who filed a child support action in Tribal Court,
- d. Involving an American Indian Child receiving foster care, or
- e. A responding or initiating Interstate case with tribal connections.