

**§ 1919. Agreements between States and Indian tribes**

**(a) Subject coverage**

States and Indian tribes are authorized to enter into agreements with each other respecting care and custody of Indian children and jurisdiction over child custody proceedings, including agreements which may provide for orderly transfer of jurisdiction on a case-by-case basis and agreements which provide for concurrent jurisdiction between States and Indian tribes.

**(b) Revocation; notice; actions or proceedings unaffected**

Such agreements may be revoked by either party upon one hundred and eighty days' written notice to the other party. Such revocation shall not affect any action or proceeding over which a court has already assumed jurisdiction, unless the agreement provides otherwise.

(Pub. L. 95-608, title I, § 109, Nov. 8, 1978, 92 Stat. 3074.)

**§ 1920. Improper removal of child from custody; declination of jurisdiction; forthwith return of child: danger exception**

Where any petitioner in an Indian child custody proceeding before a State court has improperly removed the child from custody of the parent or Indian custodian or has improperly retained custody after a visit or other temporary relinquishment of custody, the court shall decline jurisdiction over such petition and shall forthwith return the child to his parent or Indian custodian unless returning the child to his parent or custodian would subject the child to a substantial and immediate danger or threat of such danger.

(Pub. L. 95-608, title I, § 110, Nov. 8, 1978, 92 Stat. 3075.)

**§ 1921. Higher State or Federal standard applicable to protect rights of parent or Indian custodian of Indian child**

In any case where State or Federal law applicable to a child custody proceeding under State or Federal law provides a higher standard of protection to the rights of the parent or Indian custodian of an Indian child than the rights provided under this subchapter, the State or Federal court shall apply the State or Federal standard.

(Pub. L. 95-608, title I, § 111, Nov. 8, 1978, 92 Stat. 3075.)

**§ 1922. Emergency removal or placement of child; termination; appropriate action**

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prevent the emergency removal of an Indian child who is a resident of or is domiciled on a reservation, but temporarily located off the reservation, from his parent or Indian custodian or the emergency placement of such child in a foster home or institution, under applicable State law, in order to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child. The State authority, official, or agency involved shall insure that the

emergency removal or placement terminates immediately when such removal or placement is no longer necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child and shall expeditiously initiate a child custody proceeding subject to the provisions of this subchapter, transfer the child to the jurisdiction of the appropriate Indian tribe, or restore the child to the parent or Indian custodian, as may be appropriate.

(Pub. L. 95-608, title I, § 112, Nov. 8, 1978, 92 Stat. 3075.)

**§ 1923. Effective date**

None of the provisions of this subchapter, except sections 1911(a), 1918, and 1919 of this title, shall affect a proceeding under State law for foster care placement, termination of parental rights, preadoptive placement, or adoptive placement which was initiated or completed prior to one hundred and eighty days after November 8, 1978, but shall apply to any subsequent proceeding in the same matter or subsequent proceedings affecting the custody or placement of the same child.

(Pub. L. 95-608, title I, § 113, Nov. 8, 1978, 92 Stat. 3075.)

SUBCHAPTER II—INDIAN CHILD AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

**§ 1931. Grants for on or near reservation programs and child welfare codes**

**(a) Statement of purpose; scope of programs**

The Secretary is authorized to make grants to Indian tribes and organizations in the establishment and operation of Indian child and family service programs on or near reservations and in the preparation and implementation of child welfare codes. The objective of every Indian child and family service program shall be to prevent the breakup of Indian families and, in particular, to insure that the permanent removal of an Indian child from the custody of his parent or Indian custodian shall be a last resort. Such child and family service programs may include, but are not limited to—

(1) a system for licensing or otherwise regulating Indian foster and adoptive homes;

(2) the operation and maintenance of facilities for the counseling and treatment of Indian families and for the temporary custody of Indian children;

(3) family assistance, including homemaker and home counselors, day care, afterschool care, and employment, recreational activities, and respite care;

(4) home improvement programs;

(5) the employment of professional and other trained personnel to assist the tribal court in the disposition of domestic relations and child welfare matters;

(6) education and training of Indians, including tribal court judges and staff, in skills relating to child and family assistance and service programs;

(7) a subsidy program under which Indian adoptive children may be provided support comparable to that for which they would be el-

eligible as foster children, taking into account the appropriate State standards of support for maintenance and medical needs; and

(8) guidance, legal representation, and advice to Indian families involved in tribal, State, or Federal child custody proceedings.

**(b) Non-Federal matching funds for related Social Security or other Federal financial assistance programs; assistance for such programs unaffected; State licensing or approval for qualification for assistance under federally assisted program**

Funds appropriated for use by the Secretary in accordance with this section may be utilized as non-Federal matching share in connection with funds provided under titles IV-B and XX of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 620 et seq., 1397 et seq.] or under any other Federal financial assistance programs which contribute to the purpose for which such funds are authorized to be appropriated for use under this chapter. The provision or possibility of assistance under this chapter shall not be a basis for the denial or reduction of any assistance otherwise authorized under titles IV-B and XX of the Social Security Act or any other federally assisted program. For purposes of qualifying for assistance under a federally assisted program, licensing or approval of foster or adoptive homes or institutions by an Indian tribe shall be deemed equivalent to licensing or approval by a State.

(Pub. L. 95-608, title II, §201, Nov. 8, 1978, 92 Stat. 3075.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (b), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620, as amended. Titles IV-B and XX of the Social Security Act are classified generally to part B (§620 et seq.) of subchapter IV and subchapter XX (§1397 et seq.) of chapter 7 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of Title 42 and Tables.

**§ 1932. Grants for off-reservation programs for additional services**

The Secretary is also authorized to make grants to Indian organizations to establish and operate off-reservation Indian child and family service programs which may include, but are not limited to—

(1) a system for regulating, maintaining, and supporting Indian foster and adoptive homes, including a subsidy program under which Indian adoptive children may be provided support comparable to that for which they would be eligible as Indian foster children, taking into account the appropriate State standards of support for maintenance and medical needs;

(2) the operation and maintenance of facilities and services for counseling and treatment of Indian families and Indian foster and adoptive children;

(3) family assistance, including homemaker and home counselors, day care, afterschool care, and employment, recreational activities, and respite care; and

(4) guidance, legal representation, and advice to Indian families involved in child custody proceedings.

(Pub. L. 95-608, title II, §202, Nov. 8, 1978, 92 Stat. 3076.)

**§ 1933. Funds for on and off reservation programs**

**(a) Appropriated funds for similar programs of Department of Health and Human Services; appropriation in advance for payments**

In the establishment, operation, and funding of Indian child and family service programs, both on and off reservation, the Secretary may enter into agreements with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the latter Secretary is hereby authorized for such purposes to use funds appropriated for similar programs of the Department of Health and Human Services: *Provided*, That authority to make payments pursuant to such agreements shall be effective only to the extent and in such amounts as may be provided in advance by appropriation Acts.

**(b) Appropriation authorization under section 13 of this title**

Funds for the purposes of this chapter may be appropriated pursuant to the provisions of section 13 of this title.

(Pub. L. 95-608, title II, §203, Nov. 8, 1978, 92 Stat. 3076; Pub. L. 96-88, title V, §509(b), Oct. 17, 1979, 93 Stat. 695.)

CHANGE OF NAME

“Secretary of Health and Human Services” and “Department of Health and Human Services” substituted for “Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare” and “Department of Health, Education, and Welfare”, respectively, in subsec. (a) pursuant to section 509(b) of Pub. L. 96-88, which is classified to section 3508(b) of Title 20, Education.

**§ 1934. “Indian” defined for certain purposes**

For the purposes of sections 1932 and 1933 of this title, the term “Indian” shall include persons defined in section 1603(c)<sup>1</sup> of this title.

(Pub. L. 95-608, title II, §204, Nov. 8, 1978, 92 Stat. 3077.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1603(c) of this title, referred to in text, was redesignated section 1603(13) of this title by Pub. L. 111-148, title X, §10221(a), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 935.

SUBCHAPTER III—RECORDKEEPING, INFORMATION AVAILABILITY, AND TIME-TABLES

**§ 1951. Information availability to and disclosure by Secretary**

**(a) Copy of final decree or order; other information; anonymity affidavit; exemption from Freedom of Information Act**

Any State court entering a final decree or order in any Indian child adoptive placement after November 8, 1978, shall provide the Secretary with a copy of such decree or order together with such other information as may be necessary to show—

(1) the name and tribal affiliation of the child;

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.