

CHILD PROTECTION ENSURES OUR FUTURE



AND THEIRS TOO



CHILD PROTECTION HANDBOOK



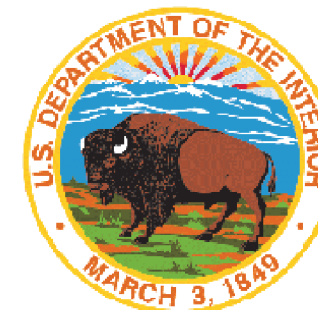
Protecting
American Indian
And
Alaska Native
Children



U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs



June 2006





United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



SEP 18 2006

Memorandum

To: All Employees

From: Associate Deputy Secretary

Subject: Child Abuse in Indian Country

There is no resource more vital to the continual existence and integrity of Indian people than our children. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has the responsibility to improve and enrich the lives of children by reducing child abuse and neglect in Indian country. The Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-630) outlines the requirements that apply to all federal employees, contractors and self-governance compactors under Public Law 93-638 programs. Since its enactment, Congress has passed other legislation, including the Crime Control Act of 1990, which also affects child protection in Indian country.

The law requires reporting all alleged cases of child abuse and neglect involving Indian children. All BIA employees and all non-federal employees of BIA administered grant, contract or compact programs have a mandated responsibility for prompt reporting of alleged incidents of child abuse and neglect.

The Child Protection Handbook (Handbook) is a reference tool for the BIA, tribal and other non-BIA employees who are in positions that have contact and/or control over Indian children. The Handbook provides the minimum standards and procedures for child abuse prevention, investigation, and treatment services, to include supporting culturally appropriate best practice approaches to the treatment of child abuse and neglect. In addition, the Handbook includes an overview of applicable laws and regulations, definitions, identification indicators, training and child protection teams. The Handbook also outlines reporting procedures and the methods currently utilized for conducting character/background checks on employees (and volunteers) that are working or applying for work in either a federal or tribal program.

All children have a fundamental right to physical safety and emotional well-being. All BIA employees should be especially aware and sensitive to the laws governing the protection of children and incident reporting requirements to appropriate authorities.

THANK YOU!

This handbook is dedicated to the hardworking professionals who serve and protect our most precious resource, our children. Within all of our communities, both large and small, there is a host of individuals who keep watch over our next generation, to ensure their health, education and well-being. We are indebted to each and every one of you.

