

Family Services/Indian Child Welfare FAQ



Who can report

In LDF anyone can report suspected child abuse or neglect to local CPS agency or law enforcement.



Types of Abuse/Neglect to Report

Physical, Neglect, Sexual abuse, including sex trafficking, Emotional abuse and Threatened abuse or neglect.



Conclusion

All reports are taken seriously and not all reporters receive a call back or response on outcome.

Question: What is child welfare or child protection services?

A: Child Welfare or child protection services provide case manager services to a family when child abuse or neglect has been substantiated and or if the child is removed from a home by court order from Lac du Flambeau Tribal Court.

Question: How do I report suspected abuse?

A: You can call Family Services/Indian Child Welfare at (715) 588-4275; Vilas County Social Services at (715) 479-3668; or LdF police department at (715) 588-7717. If you know a child in immediate danger, please call 911.

Question: What happens when someone makes a report?

A: The worker takes the information of who the child is, who allegedly harmed the child, where the child lives, where it happened, when it happened, and what happened. The intake is then process as it is either screened in or screened out. Some reports warrant immediate action by ICW staff and law enforcement. Some reports warrant a child welfare check with the family.

Question: How are reports investigated?

A: Typically, it is a joint investigation between ICW and local law enforcement. Workers will interview the family and child to determine whether the report can be substantiated or unsubstantiated.

Question: What happens when a child is removed?

A: A court petition is filed by ICW staff in tribal court within 24 hours of the report. A hearing is then set up to be heard by a judge to determine if the evidence warranted the removal.

Question: What are case management services?

A: Case management assesses the needs of the child and their family, when appropriate, and arranges, coordinates, monitors, evaluates, and advocates for an array of services to meet the specific child and family needs.

Question: What agency handles a child welfare or child protection case?

A: Lac du Flambeau has exclusive jurisdiction of all children residing on the Lac du Flambeau reservation. If the child lives off reservation, Vilas County Social Services has jurisdiction on these matters, or the county or state that the tribal child lives in. These cases become ICWA cases that LDF monitors and assures compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act.

