



Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

88455 Pike Road

Bayfield, WI 54814

Phone: 715-779-3700 Fax: 715-779-3704

Email: redcliff@redcliff-nsn.gov

Red Cliff Tribal Council

March 19, 2020

Red Cliff Indian Child Welfare Department Guidance on Child, Family and Facility Contact During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

The department is committed to supporting the children and families in our communities, and to keeping our workforce safe and healthy. Child protection is an essential community service for some of our most vulnerable residents and families who are struggling to safely care for their children. In general, there is no substitute for seeing children and families in person, but given the current COVID-19 pandemic it is necessary and prudent to balance the need to see children and families in person with the use of distant visits, in some circumstances, to protect the health of our workforce and the children in placements and in the community.

- **Child safety is the top priority for the Red Cliff Indian Child Welfare Department.**
- **If child welfare workers are unable to react in times of emergency, due to exposure to COVID-19, more children will be at risk.**
- **We will need to balance the key priorities of assessing and ensuring child safety while keeping our workforce healthy and available to respond to emergency child abuse and neglect situations.**

Technology will be utilized as the preferred method of contact in the following situations:

Face-to-face contacts related to children and families of children in out-of-home care will be completed by using technology (such as Skype, FaceTime, Zoom, etc.). This includes:

- **regularly scheduled monthly contacts between caseworkers and children in out-of-home care,**
- **contact between caseworkers and families of children in out-of-home care,**
- **family interaction between children in out-of-home care and their families,**
- **family interaction between siblings in out-of-home care,**
- **caseworker visits with families with no known active danger threats within the placement home.**

Risk management plans will continue to be monitored and updated as necessary.

Effective 3/19/2020 Indian Child Welfare Staff will be working remotely.

Clients receiving Case Management Services, or if you need to report a concern of Child Abuse, Neglect, Maltreatment, or Drug Endangered Children, or if you are a family that needs extra support and services,

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Contact: **715-209-7149 or 715-209-2141**

Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

After Hour Child Welfare Emergency Call Dispatch at 715-373-6120 and an ICW on call worker will assist in the matter

If you have questions or need case information,

Gretchen Morris, ICW Director –

gretchen.morris@redcliff-nsn.gov

Angie Emrich,

ICW ICWA Manager, Admin Assist, Respite/Kinship/Foster Care Coordinator –

angela.emrich@redcliff-nsn.gov

Caitlin Penhollow, ICW Case Worker –

caitlin.penhollow@redcliff-nsn.gov

Elizabeth Wachsmuth, ICW Case Worker –

bitsy.wachsmuth@redcliff-nsn.gov

Kelliann Clapero, ICW Case Assistant –

kellian.clapero@redcliff-nsn.gov

Laurie Butterfield,

ICW Tribal Victims Advocate, Independent Living Coordinator

laurie.butterfield@redcliff-nsn.gov

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Together, we will get through this public health crisis and emerge stronger as a community!

Red Cliff Indian Child Welfare Staff!

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