



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Tribal Leader:

Tribes work hard to protect the safety and wellbeing of their children, especially when placing a child into foster care under a tribal court order. The Native American Children's Safety Act (NACSA) (Public Law 114-165), enacted in 2016, amends the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to further ensure children's safety by requiring Indian Tribes to conduct background checks before placing children in foster care.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) seeks to assist Indian Tribes in complying with NACSA by providing information on how to conduct background checks. The BIA has prepared the enclosed Draft NACSA Guidance, entitled *Background Checks For Foster Care Placements under NACSA*, for your review and input. The Draft NACSA Guidance is also available at the following website:

<https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/raca/regulations-and-other-documents-in-development>.

The BIA will be hosting the following Tribal consultation sessions to hear your input on this Draft NACSA Guidance:

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, February 21, 2018	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. Local Time	National Indian Training Center 1011 Indian School Road, NW Albuquerque, New Mexico
Tuesday, February 27, 2018	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. Local Time	Mystic Lake Casino Hotel 2400 Mystic Lake Boulevard Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372
Tuesday, March 6, 2018	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time	(877) 716-4291 Passcode 6919058

Please RSVP to consultation@bia.gov if you plan to attend. As our schedule is still evolving, please periodically check the calendar on the above website for times and other updates.

Please provide any written input on the Draft NACSA Guidance, on March 16, 2017, by midnight to consultation@bia.gov or the address below:

Attn: NACSA Guidance
Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action
Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
1849 C Street NW
Mail Stop 4660-MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Once we incorporate your input, we plan to issue final guidance by NACSA's deadline of June 2018. Please feel free to contact Liz Appel at (202) 273-4680 if you would like any additional information on this effort.

Sincerely,



John Tahsuda
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary –
Indian Affairs