

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 322

By: Paxton of the Senate

and

Biggs of the House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to Indian child custody proceedings;
amending 10 O.S. 2011, Section 40.4, which relates to
notice; modifying certain notice requirements;
providing exception; specifying method to show
certain notice; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2011, Section 40.4, is
amended to read as follows:

Section 40.4. A. In all Indian child custody proceedings of
the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Act, including voluntary court
proceedings ~~and review hearings~~, the court shall ensure that the
district attorney or other person initiating the proceeding shall
send notice to the parents or to the Indian custodians, if any, and
to the tribe that is or may be the tribe of the Indian child, and to
the appropriate Bureau of Indian Affairs area office, by ~~certified~~

1 regular first-class mail ~~return receipt requested~~. The notice shall
2 be written in clear and understandable language and include the
3 following information:

4 1. The name and tribal affiliation of the Indian child;

5 2. A copy of the petition by which the proceeding was
6 initiated;

7 3. A statement of the rights of the biological parents or
8 Indian custodians, and the Indian tribe:

9 a. to intervene in the proceeding,

10 b. to petition the court to transfer the proceeding to
11 the tribal court of the Indian child, and

12 c. to request an additional twenty (20) days from receipt
13 of notice to prepare for the proceeding; further
14 extensions of time may be granted with court approval;

15 4. A statement of the potential legal consequences of an
16 adjudication on the future custodial rights of the parents or Indian
17 custodians;

18 5. A statement that if the parents or Indian custodians are
19 unable to afford counsel, counsel will be appointed to represent
20 them; and

21 6. A statement that tribal officials should keep confidential
22 the information contained in the notice.

23 B. Notice of review hearings shall be sent, via regular first-
24 class mail, to the tribe of the Indian child unless the tribe is

1 present at the time the review hearing is set and consents to the
2 date of the review. A tribe's right to notice under this section is
3 not dependent on intervention into the case. The notice shall be
4 evidenced by filing a certificate of mailing prior to the review
5 hearing.

6 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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