



UTAH

PRACTICE ELEVATED

2012 Court Improvement Summit

Indian Child Welfare Committee

Sheldon Spotted Elk, J.D.



“Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our *children.*”

Sitting Bull

Ethnicity and Race in Foster care in Utah

American Indian/
Alaskan Native make
up ~1% of the total
Utah population
however are 4 times
disproportionately
represented in Foster
care placements.

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Alaska Native / American Indian	4.6%	4.4%	4.0%	3.9%
Asian	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%
Black	5.0%	4.1%	5.0%	5.1%
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	1.0%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%
Hispanic (of any race)	22.5%	24.5%	23.7%	23.3%
White	63.7%	62.3%	62.4%	63.9%
Two or more races	2.4%	3.2%	2.7%	2.6%
Unknown	0.3%	0.4%	1.2%	<.1%

Test your Indian IQ

Of all the major racial and ethnic groups which one lives in the MOST residentially segregated environment?

- A) African Americans
- B) Hispanic Americans
- C) Asian Americans
- D) Native Americans
- E) None of the Above

According to the report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, what proportion of American Indian youths attempt suicide by the end of high school?

- A) 1 of 50
- B) 1 of 20
- C) 1 of 10 girls and 1 of 8 boys
- D) 1 of 5 girls and 1 of 8 boys
- E) None of the above

How does the US Declaration of Independence refer to American Indians?

- A) As “merciless Indian savages.”
- B) As “the Native inhabitants of this land.”
- C) It does NOT mention the existence of American Indians.
- D) None of the above.

CIP—Indian Child Welfare

- Committee established in April 2011
- ICWA compliance
- Foster care recruitment/licensing issues.
- Collaboration with Tribes, Courts, DCFS, Foster care Foundation and other State and Indian entities. (11-20 people attending).

Indian Child Welfare Conference *Thinking about the Seventh Generation*



Highlights:

Over 230 participants

ICWA

Indian sovereignty

Customary adoption

Overcoming barriers

Community resources

Networking

Brainstorming

Collaborations



Utah Indian Tribes

- **Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Indian Reservation**, Ibapah
- **Navajo Nation**, Aneth (Window Rock, Arizona)
- **Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation**, Brigham City
- **Paiute Indian Tribes of Utah**, Cedar City
- **Skull Valley Band of Goshute**, Grantsville
- **Ute Indian Tribe**, Fort Duchesne
- **Ute Mountain Ute**, White Mesa (Towaoc, Colorado)



The GREAT race
And
Capturing the spirit
of ICWA.