

Nez Perce Tribe's *Child Support Enforcement Program*

Nez Perce Tribe Settlement

If you have any questions
or need additional information,
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The Nez Perce Tribe is set to collect as much as \$34 million as part of a federal agreement to settle a series of lawsuits brought by Tribal Nations over mismanagement of tribal lands and funds. About 41 tribes from across the country are expected to be paid more than \$1 billion. Other Northwest tribes involved in the settlement include the Coeur d'Alene, Colville and Spokane tribes.



Over the years, tribes lost hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties for oil, gas, grazing and timber rights on tribal lands due to mismanaged accounts. The settlement was announced jointly by the U.S. Justice Department and the Interior Department, which manages more than 100,000 tribal leases and approximately 2,500 trust accounts set aside for the tribes.

In regards to the Child Support Enforcement Program; these settlement funds cannot be collected for payment of child support debt. However, we hope that non-custodial parents will voluntarily pay their child support obligation in the best interest and financial welfare of their children.

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Did you know?

Child support obligations can be taken from your IIM (Individual Indian Money) accounts!!

Yes, under 25 CFR § 115.601 (b) (1) BIA *may* restrict your IIM accounts through an encumbrance if the BIA receives an order from a court of competent jurisdiction awarding child support from your IIM account.

Be sure to stay current with your child support or make payments towards your arrears to reduce the possibility of your IIM account being garnished.



8th Annual Region 10 Tribal Child Support Training Conference & Model Tribal System (MTS) Demonstration

Sponsored By: Quinault Nation & the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma

Ocean Shores, WA. May 21 – May 25, 2012

The NPT Child Support Program attended the 8th Annual Region 10 Tribal Child Support Training Conference & Model Tribal Systems (MTS) Demonstration. The training conference was sponsored by the Quinault Nation and the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma Child Support Programs and was held at the Quinault Beach Resort. Jerry Sweet, Child Support Program Manager of the Modoc Tribe presented an overview of the features of the MTS software and its release in the summer of 2012. He discussed the advantages and drawbacks of participation with the Modoc MTS Consortium and outlined the MTS breakout sessions for the rest of the conference in Case and Financial Management. Other sessions included topics on “Family Violence: Safely Pursuing Child Support”, “Intertribal Full-Faith and Credit: Is it working?”, “Accounting and Auditing: How to Audit Files to catch Accounting Errors”, “Best Practices: Working with Tribal Courts 101”, “Intertribal Referrals: How we do things here...”, “Evolving Mission of Child Support: Bubble Chart in Action”, “Can IIM Accounts be Attached for Child Support Arrears?”, and “OLDC and Grant Cycle Training”. All CSEP staff attended the sessions of their choice and learned what other tribal agencies are doing and how to bring innovative services back to Nez Perce service area. The CSEP staff also participat-

ed in a canoe team building exercise that was under the guidance of the Os-Chuck-A-Bick Canoe Family and paddled as a team under the leadership of Jacob Black of the Quileute Nation. He shared his family canoe songs with participants as they paddled. It was a great team work experience for CSEP staff and being involved in the Quileute culture.



Learning how to paddle properly with Hattie Brown (Office Assistant), Michelle Penney (Financial Specialist), Crescentia Hills (Director), Lana Rickman (Case Worker), Janice Ellenwood (Outreach Specialist), Tom Williamson (Case Worker) and Unknown participant.



Tom Williamson, CSEP Caseworker, catching a World Famous Flying Fish at Pike Place Market, Seattle WA

**FLYING
FISH**



Michelle Penney, CSEP Financial Specialist, with Jim Bergquist of BizFutures, preparing to catch a flying fish at the World Famous Flying Fish at Pike Place Market, Seattle WA.

Flying Fish Presentation

The CSEP Staff attended a training with Jim Bergquist, the CEO of BizFutures Consulting. BizFutures is a global transformational consulting, coaching and training company, founded in 1983. They empower people and organizations to create extraordinary, breakthrough results.

During our meeting Mr. Bergquist, he asked CSEP staff what the vision for the program is. After staff discussion, it was determined that the program's vision is:

- 1) NCPs will be 100% current for monthly obligations for children under 18 years in 6 months.
- 2) 100% voluntary participation from NCP's to create relationships, keep promises, and design procedures to enroll NCPs.
- 3) Parents will support their children emotionally and financially without intervention from the CSEP office.

This vision for the future was created not knowing what steps are needed to create it. Mr. Bergquist shared with staff that if there is commitment with every program employee on the possibility of the vision, the universe will guide what is next. The objective will be that **all** staff must be involved with the cases in order to provide excellent services to CSEP clients; to help identify barriers and how to breach those barriers. Staff did exercises in communication and how important it is to be available to make a difference for everybody; to being accountable to our program and to the people we serve. CSEP staff agreed to commit themselves to being involved with cases and to work together as a team for the best interest of our clients.

Two of CSEP staff, Tom Williamson and Michelle Penney got the opportunity to catch "flying fish" at the Pikes Place Market. Good Catch!

Financial Literacy Training

When: Tuesdays, July 3rd, 10th, 17th 2012

Where: Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises Training Building

Time: 8:00am-3:00pm

All classes must have sign ups by noon the day prior or the class will be cancelled.

To sign up contact Simon Wilson or Yvette Ibanez at 208-843-7407.

Nez Perce Tribe
Child Support Enforcement Program

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Among the Nimiipuu, children are seen as gifts from the Creator. They represent the future of the tribe and a link to the values of our culture. Each child is the center of a circle with deep relationships to his biological parents, his blood relatives and his fellow tribal members. Adults must put the children first to ensure they are properly nurtured and developed.



A new PSA ad was launch on May 7th, 2012. It was produced by KLEW-TV of Lewiston ID and has been showing on their station with positive reviews. It has also been posted on Youtube, CSEP Facebook and featured on the ACF-OCSE new website at:
<http://transition.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocsp>.



CSEP Outreach Specialist, Janice Ellenwood and Caseworker, Tom Williamson, presented the Parenting and Paternity Awareness (papa) program to the Lapwai High School sophomore health class on May 8th. A pre-evaluation was given to students asking them their knowledge of child support, 44% said they knew little about child support. The students post-evaluation showed that after the papa presentation, 81% had a greater understanding of child support, parenting and paternity. CSEP has been invited back to present during the 2012-2013 academic year.