

ABINOOJIYAG RESOURCE CENTER

This is a public service announcement to provide information on services provided by the Abinoojiyag Resource Center:

OUR GOAL

To protect the best interest of Indian children and promote the stability of Indian tribes and families. The workers assume responsibility, on behalf of the tribe, for the protection, care and wellbeing of at-risk children who are enrolled or eligible for enrollment in the tribe.

1. Abinoojiyag Resource Center works hard to decrease court cases. Our priority is to offer services to avoid court intervention and work with the family on prevention while the members remain together.
2. Our primary goal is to keep the family together. If we are unable to do that, then the goal shifts to reunification with the parents as soon as possible by offering services geared to eliminate the safety factors that warranted the removal and court intervention.
3. Prevention efforts include Informal Resolutions. In these agreements, an assessment is completed to create a case plan for services that aids in eliminating the risk factors at home. This can also include a cultural case plan.

OTHER SERVICES

- Intake for child abuse and neglect
- Investigation of reports
- Case management services
- Foster care licensing
- Adoption and customary adoption
- ICWA advocacy
- Biziindadedah Project
- Respite services for foster/kinship parents
- Coordinated Services Team Initiative
- Dibendizo Independent Living



FAQ

Q: What is child welfare or child protection services?

A: Child welfare or child protection services provides case management services to a family when child abuse or neglect has been substantiated and or it the child is removed from a home by a court order from Bad River Tribal Court. Abinoojiyag Resource Centers goal is to prevent removal of a child, if possible, by offering services.

Q: How do I report suspected abuse?

A: You can call the Abinoojiyag Resource Center at (715) 682-7136; Ashland County Health and Human Services at (715) 682-7004; or Local Law Enforcement at (715) 682-7023. If the child is in immediate danger, please call 911.

Q: What happens when someone makes a report?

A: The worker takes the information of who the child is, who allegedly harmed the child(ren), where the child lives, where it happened, when it happened, and what happened. The intake is then processed as it is either screened in or screened out based on a Risk Assessment tool. Some reports warrant immediate action by ARC staff and law enforcement. Some reports warrant a child welfare check with the family. All intakes are also sent to the local CPS agency.

Q: How are reports investigated:

A: Typically, it is a joint investigation between the county and ARC. Workers will interview the family and child(ren) to determine whether the report can be substantiated or unsubstantiated.

Q: What happens when a child is removed?

A: A court petition is filed by ARC staff or by ACHHS staff in tribal or county court within 24 hours of the report. A hearing is then set up to be heard by a judge to determine if the evidence warranted the removal.

Q: What are case management services?

A: Case management assesses the needs of the client and the client's family, when appropriate, and arranges, coordinates, monitors, evaluates, and advocates for an array of services to meet the specific client needs.

Q: What agency handles a child welfare or child protection case?

A: Bad River Abinoojiyag Resource Center has exclusive jurisdiction to all children residing on the Bad River reservation. If the child lives off reservation, Ashland County Health and Human Services has jurisdiction on these matters, or the county or state that the tribal child resides in. These cases become ICWA cases that ARC monitors and assures compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Child Custody



Child Welfare



- It is a fine line between child custody and child welfare, however, child custody is not always a child protection case and ARC staff cannot cross that line.
- Child custody cases are heard in family court. For example, child support, divorce, marital, and grandparents' rights cases.
- Most child custody cases determine custody between two people such as parents, partners, even a relative.
- ARC staff cannot interfere in family court disputes. If the child(ren) are not at IMMEDIATE risk, ARC cannot remove from a parent. One must follow the proper legal procedures for that to occur through the court that ordered the custody arrangement.

There are different types of custody

Joint Physical Custody is often worked out between the parents, according to their schedules, allowing the child(ren) to stay with the parent when he or she is available to take care of their needs. Joint custody also includes both parents rights to make any necessary legal, medical, and educational decisions for their child(ren) together.

Sole Physical Custody may be ordered in cases which one parent is seen to be unable to provide a healthy and stable living environment for the child(ren). Sole custody allows only one custodial parent to make all legal, medical, and educational decisions for the child without the other parents consent.

April is observed as child abuse prevention month. A child welfare issue involves suspected child abuse or neglect. Child abuse can be physical, sexual or emotional. Neglect can range from educational needs not being met to lack of health and hygiene care. Remember, child welfare cases cannot open based on poverty. Some parents do not have the means to get the essential needs for their families. The Abinoojiyag Resource Center offers supportive services to families and can make referrals for resources to aid the family to eliminate any hardships that put the children at risk.

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, please contact:

Abinoojiyag Resource Center: (715) 682-7136

Ashland County Health and Human Services: (715) 682-7004

Ashland County After Hours: (715) 685-7640

National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4453

For EMERGENCY situations: Call 911

Meet the STAFF

ABINOOJIYAG RESOURCE CENTER



Gina Secord
ARC Manager
arcmgr@badriver-nsn.gov
(715) 682-7137 ext. 1434



Donald Rosin
ARC Case Manager
d.rosinarc@badriver-nsn.gov
(715) 682-7137 ext. 1413



Kim Ford
CST Coordinator
cst@badriver-nsn.gov
(715) 682-7137 ext. 1412



Sarah Principato
Independent Living Coordinator
Kinship & Foster Care
kinship@badriver-nsn.gov
(715) 682-7137 ext. 1445



Gloria Wiggins
Biizindadedah Coordinator
bzddd@badriver-nsn.gov
(715) 682-7137 ext. 1432