

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Tool 2.B: Disposition of CA/N Reports Involving an Indian Child of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	Effective Date: March 1, 2021
	Reference: 2.12 Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)	Version: 1

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians is a United States (US) federally recognized tribe (for Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) purposes) and maintains a headquarters in Dowagiac, Michigan. The Pokagon Band maintains sovereign (self-governing) land within St. Joseph County, South Bend, Indiana. The Pokagon Band has jurisdiction over any incident which occurs on this land (see the [Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Tribal Lands Map](#)).

When a report of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (CA/N) which **occurs within Pokagon jurisdiction** is received, the Department of Child Services (DCS) local office will determine if the parent and/or child is a member of or an individual who may otherwise be eligible for membership in the Pokagon Band. This determination will be confirmed by the [Pokagon Band's Social Services Director or the Pokagon Band Family Services Supervisor](#).

Reports Occurring on Pokagon Band Land within St. Joseph County, Indiana

A report occurring within Pokagon jurisdiction (whether or not the report involves a Pokagon Band child) will be sent from the DCS Child Abuse Hotline (Hotline) to the St. Joseph County DCS office. The St. Joseph County DCS office will contact the [Pokagon Band Family Services Supervisor](#) prior to initiation of the assessment to relay **all** details of the report. However, initiation of the assessment should not be delayed in order to complete this contact. When it is not possible to complete the contact prior to initiating the assessment (e.g., report with a two [2] hour response time), the St. Joseph County DCS office will contact the [Pokagon Band Family Services Supervisor](#) as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours following initiation of the assessment. See policy [4.38 Assessment Initiation](#) for additional information.

Reports Involving a Pokagon Band Child and Occur in Indiana, but Outside of Pokagon Band land in St. Joseph County

A report involving a Pokagon Band child, which occurs in Indiana but outside of Pokagon Band land in St. Joseph County, will be sent from the DCS Hotline to the appropriate local DCS office. The local DCS office will complete the assessment as required. The local office will contact the [Social Services Director of the Pokagon Band](#) within 24 hours after becoming aware that the child may be a Pokagon Band Member to verify the child's membership. If it is verified that the child is a Pokagon Band member, the local office will communicate the outcome of the assessment with the [Social Services Director of the Pokagon Band](#).

DCS will follow all steps outlined in policy [2.12 Indian Child Welfare Act \(ICWA\)](#) and ensure the Pokagon Band is represented as part of the Child and Family Team (CFT). See policy [5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings](#) for additional information.