

Press Release 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

With Ayazuta.com, ICWA Compliance is Easier.

A new online database allows Social Workers to get Tribal ICWA contact details quickly and accurately, overcoming issues with the Federal Register, where research found errors and omissions in 65% of Federal Register Designated Tribal Agents for Service of Notice.

Los Angeles, California, December 9th, 2009. As part of a nation-wide service to automate compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Ayazuta.com is contacting every federally recognized Tribe to verify ICWA Tribal Contact information.

Having contacted over 20% of tribes during the past 2 months, Ayazuta has sampled the results and found 2 distinct issues. Firstly, 65% of the April 2009, Federal Register, Designated Tribal Agents for Service of ICWA Notices have at least one problem in the contact information serious enough to undermine compliance. Problems range from incorrect contact names, invalid addresses and invalid Tribe names. The second issue is with non-notice contact information, this is used by Care Workers for everyday communication with Tribal social services departments, and covers names, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, and fax numbers, here 86% of Tribes' contact information was incorrect or deficient.

"The Bureau of Indian Affairs has the difficult task of publishing inherently fluid information to the static Federal Register. People change roles, or move offices, and some mistakes get made. Even if the information were perfect when collected, it would be out of date quickly after publication." says Kevin Hughes, CEO of H7interactive, llc, Ayazuta.com creators.

Ayazuta.com has a better way. Their database technology allows searches on Federal Name, historical Tribe name (which is most frequently the start point of an Indian heritage claim), part of a name, Keyword (to cover complex Tribal histories, and alternate spellings), and searches by State. The database returns all of the Federally Recognized Tribes that meet the search criteria and their contact details. The database stays up to date through Ayazuta.com confirming details with Tribes every 6 months, and the website allows anyone to report a change, which will be investigated, and updated where appropriate.

The lookup service is free at www.ayazuta.com, or downloadable versions of the database for import into case management systems, with monthly updates, are available for a fee to Federal, State, County and commercial operations.

"Being able to get accurate, up to date contact information quickly is crucial for States and Counties to do more effective ICWA noticing, which in turn allows Social Workers to spend more time getting the best outcome for the Indian Child." Says Kevin

www.Ayazuta.com has, and will continue to evolve as a community driven design, based on benefits to the Native American Child, the Tribe, the Case Worker, and the Court. Ayazuta.com has the potential to save even more time and money by also facilitating the "active efforts" and "placement preference" requirements of the ICWA.

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