

**IN SUPPORT OF CREATING DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN
PROTECTION PROGRAMS IN NEVADA INDIAN COUNTRY**

WHEREAS, A Drug Endangered Child is defined as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution. They may also be children whose caretaker's substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, at least 70 percent of the cases of abuse and neglect stem from alcohol and drug-abusing parents; and

WHEREAS, children of parents who are substance abusers were three times more likely to be abused and four times more likely to be neglected than children of sober parents; and

WHEREAS, harm to the children exposed to these environments can include; physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect; including failure to nurture, supervise, or provide meals, sanitary and safe living conditions, adequate schooling and medical care; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc. (ITCN) recognizes that the needs of a drug endangered child are best served with written policies encouraging the investigation of child endangerment where there is probable cause that an offense has been committed. Every agency related to the investigation will coordinate for the child's welfare; and

WHEREAS, despite the known dangers that substance-abusing parents create for their children, no apparent coordinated plan exists in many tribes between various governmental departments and community agencies to respond to the impact that drug usage in the home has on the child; and

WHEREAS, we want our children safe and we want parents to get well; and the collective goal is to improve early detection and intervention so that Native families get the help they need before a tragedy occurs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ITCN strongly urges tribal communities to be trained in awareness and investigation techniques and thus form multi-disciplinary groups that include law enforcement officers, prosecutors, public health professionals, first responders, housing officials and social workers to address the welfare of children endangered by drugs. These coordinated Drug Endangered Children Protection groups should develop standards and protocols, through memorandums of understanding;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ITCN strongly encourages all persons working with or for children in Indian Country align with the Nevada Drug Endangered Child Alliance Mission Statement; *We strive to break the cycle of abuse and neglect by empowering practitioners who work to transform the lives of children and families living in drug environments.*

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the duly called meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Executive Board meeting held on the 31st day of May 2013, by a vote,
for against abstention

Chad Malone, Secretary
ITCN Executive Board