



New Mexico Human Services Department

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INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
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TO: ISD AND MAD STAFF

FROM: CAROLYN INGRAM, DIRECTOR, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION
HELEN NELSON, ACTING DIRECTOR, INCOME SUPPORT DIVISION

THROUGH: ROY BURT, BUREAU CHIEF, CLIENT SERVICES BUREAU

BY: SONYA PIERCE, STAFF MANAGER, CLIENT SERVICES BUREAU

SUBJECT: TRIBAL DOCUMENTS AS PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

Section 211 of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) clarified certain provisions of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 related to acceptance of documents issued by a federally recognized Indian Tribe for documentation of citizenship or nationality. It specifies that a document issued by a federally recognized Indian Tribe evidencing membership, enrollment in, or affiliation with such Tribe is satisfactory documentary evidence of an individual's U.S. citizenship or nationality. The document must identify the federally recognized Indian Tribe which issued it, identify the individual by name, and confirm the individual's membership, enrollment in, or affiliation with that Tribe.

Tribal documents are now considered to be as reliable as a passport and are treated as "Tier 1" documents under federal regulations. Additional identity documentation is not required to be presented. Examples of acceptable "Tier 1" documents include Tribal enrollment and membership cards, a certificate of degree of Indian blood issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a Tribal census document, or a document issued by a Tribe indicating an individual's affiliation with the Tribe.

Documents issued by federally recognized Indian Tribes may satisfactorily document evidence of an individual's U.S. citizenship. However, these documents may not necessarily prove the relationship necessary for determining eligibility for Family Medicaid (JUL Medicaid). The

document must indicate the relationship necessary for inclusion in the JUL Medicaid household. It may be necessary to request additional proof to establish relationship

Please address questions regarding this GI to Sonya Pierce at (505) 476-6818 or sonya.pierce@state.nm.us.