PRESS RELEASE

TRIBAL STAR
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Tribal STAR statement on In re A.P. Case out of Los Angeles

On March 21, 2016, the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (LA DCFS) transitioned a six-year-old (referred to as “Lexi” in the media) member of the Choctaw Nation from the home of the foster parents to the home of her extended family in Utah. In the process, the child’s right to privacy and confidentiality were violated and she was subjected to a chaotic and traumatizing transition under the spotlight of the media.

Tribal STAR is disturbed by the media’s ongoing biased representation of the facts and the misinformation about the tribe’s involvement and ICWA, which is being perpetuated through sensationalistic and non-objective journalism. Tribal STAR believes that LA DCFS and the Court acted in accordance with their legal obligations under ICWA. We applaud their efforts to ensure the best outcomes for Native children under their care by striving to place Indian children with their extended families whenever possible. We have great respect and appreciation for foster families who care for our children, and for those families who have made a number of Indian children a permanent part of their family while ensuring a connection to the child’s extended family, tribe and culture. We will continue to support and work with those families and promote ICWA as best practice.

This press release is dedicated to all the ICWA workers who tirelessly give of themselves to protect Indian children and families, and preserve culture and tradition.