

## New Law Can Affect Tribal Children

The ICW Program would like to let families know that a federal law, the **Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (P.L. 105.89)**, has now been in effect for about a year. The community should be aware that this law is outside of the tribe's control and that it will have a significant impact on tribal children and families.

Congress' goal in passing this law was to promote permanency for children and/or adoptions for children who are in the foster care system. Congress clearly intended to limit the time children are in out-of-home care.

→ The time limits for a child to be in out-of-home care is 12 months and this clock starts from the date of the

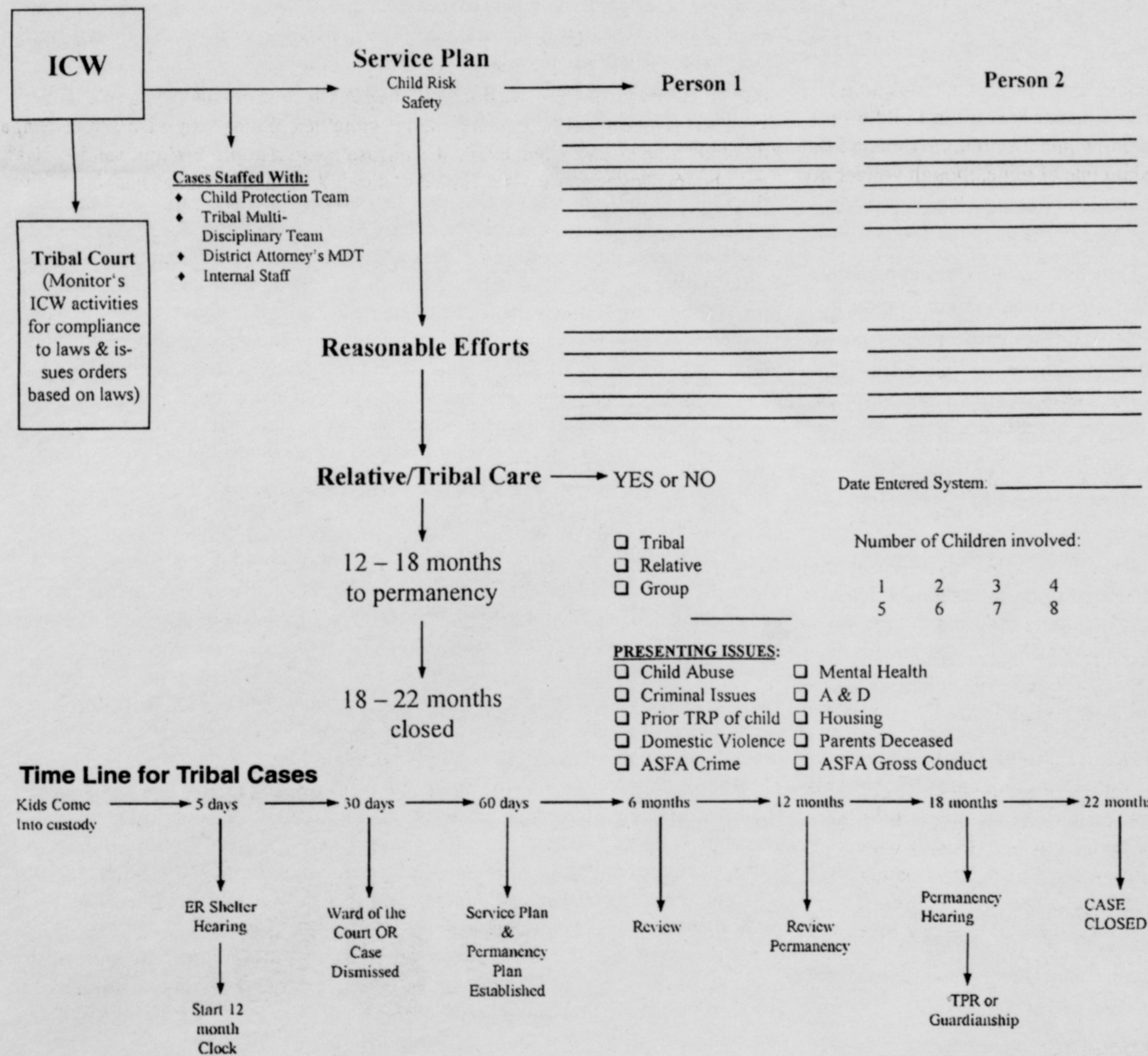
shelter care hearing. This means that if the parents don't make significant progress in a child welfare case during the first year, the agency involved **must** follow through with a permanency plan to close the case. This could mean termination of parental rights and/or adoption. In some cases, guardianships are acceptable.

→ Also written into the law is a provision for termination of parental rights. In cases where parents have had parental rights terminated for other children or previously seriously abused a child, the new case may be terminated within 30 days of opening.

→ Other provisions within these laws include developing a permanency plan for all cases within 60 days of a child entering care. Placement with a relative is promoted **if** there are no convictions for domestic violence, assault, child abuse, alcohol or drug abuse, and several other crimes within the last five years. Numerous other crimes are listed that ICW must screen for as well, and fingerprinting of all care providers is required.

Any program that has accepted Title IV-B or IV-E funding is required to follow these mandatory laws. CTSI has accepted IV-B funds since 1996.

### TRIBAL COURT CASES



## Time to Apply for Scholarships

Three scholarships are available through the Siletz Tribe:

**Arthur Bensell Memorial Scholarship:** specifically for students enrolled in a program leading to a degree in education

**Siletz Scholarship:** specifically for students enrolled in a program leading to a degree in a medical field

**CTSI - Pepsi Scholarship:** open to all students regardless of major

The programs manager and Siletz Tribal Education Committee administer the scholarships. Applications are available annually in April. Application for all financial aid is required of students. Tribal students are expected to apply for these scholarships.

Scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,000 for one academic year.

Scholarship recipients are announced in July and awarded at the annual Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow in August of each year. All three scholarships require the following:

- ✓ Completed application form
- ✓ Documentation of acceptance at an accredited vocational training or higher education institution, two-year, four-year, or graduate school
- ✓ 500- to 1,000-word essay on a specific annual theme
- ✓ Three letters of recommendation

The Education Committee selects scholarship recipients on a competitive basis. Factors considered during the evaluation process include:

- Applicant's academic achievements
- Quality of applicant's essay
- Strength of letters of recommendation

**Note:** Applications must be received in our office by 4:30 p.m. on June 29, 2001.

Incomplete applications will not be considered. If you have questions, please call 1-800-922-1399, ext. 290, or 541-444-8290 and ask for Bev Youngman.